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Madrid Talks

Conference Continues After Closing Speeches

Al-Shar' Briefs Press 1 Nov

JN0111192391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1756 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 1 Nov (SANA mission)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference this afternoon at the press center in Madrid.

The foreign minister began by saying: We came to Madrid in good faith, and with a sincere desire to contribute to establishing peace in our region and to find ways to achieve a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, especially since you realize that our region has not known the taste of peace for a long time. Over the past 40 years, our region has witnessed wars, confrontations, the policy of expulsion, the deportation of our citizens, and the advent of settlers to our occupied territories.

Replying to a question on the fixed venue for convening the bilateral talks, al-Shar' said: We came to Madrid after the parties concerned had agreed to hold the peace conference in Madrid. Consequently, our understanding of a question of this kind—namely, transferring the talks to another country—causes us astonishment and dismay. It then transpired that Israel was the party that presented the idea of transferring the talks to another place. We believe such a proposal unjustified.

The Spanish people are hospitable, and the arrangements made by the Spanish Government have been good. An atmosphere of peace surrounds us, and Madrid is the suitable place.

Responding to a question on whether the cosponsors of the conference have become more familiar with the Syrian viewpoint, al- Shar' said: I believe that the Madrid conference provided an opportunity for world public opinion to become familiar with the hard facts and realities of our turbulent region, especially since our region lends itself to a great deal of suspicion, illusion, and fabrication within some circles of world public opinion. Therefore, we are comfortable with convening the conference and are responsive to its cosponsors. We wish for genuine peace, a peace that will restore the occupied land and create a new logic in the region away from conflicts.

Replying to a question on whether Arab coordination is ongoing and continuing, al-Shar' said: So far, I have not heard that one Arab party does not wish to coordinate with the rest of the Arab parties. We will hold a meeting this evening with the heads of the Arab delegations taking part in the conference to continue coordination among us, and to discuss the subsequent steps and the means to avoid Israeli traps that seek to obstruct the peace process and torpedo the current efforts to attain it.

The foreign minister was asked how Syria would react if Israel insisted on a peace-for-peace formula and if it persisted in its refusal to abide by UN resolutions. He also was asked about which party fears peace.

Al-Shar' said: We do not fear peace. If this were so, we would not have come to Madrid. We have enough courage not to hide anything or to be afraid to do whatever we are convinced of. Our peaceful intentions are beyond question, but realistically, practically, and legally, peace will continue to elude us, short of the recovery of all occupied Arab land seized by Israel by force of arms and war.

Al-Shar' said that the date for the commencement of bilateral talks has yet to be set. He took note of Baker's remark that the bilateral talks will get under way as soon as possible and that the conference's cosponsors will hold consultations to that end. As for us, we want the conference to resume here.

Replying to a question on confidence-building measures and security arrangements in the Golan Heights, Mr. al-Shar' said that this is occupied Syrian territory, which Israel claims to be strategically important for its security. If every nation sought to seize a neighboring mountain on such grounds, then imagine how many conflicts and disputes would arise in the world. Not that we are opposed to balanced, acceptable, and mutual security arrangements after Israel withdraws from all of the Golan Heights. If Israel withdrew and implemented the UN resolutions and there had to be demilitarized zones, then this must apply to the two sides equally so that we might have a balanced peace whereby neither party was left with its dignity impaired as a consequence of security arrangements. We believe that there can be nothing better as a confidence-building measure than for Israel to evacuate all occupied Arab territory—a measure that, in itself, should open the road to peace.

Asked about the Jews in Syria, al-Shar' noted that Jews have lived in the country for centuries and have experienced no repression or discrimination whatsoever. Throughout history, we have been tolerant toward the Jews. If you consult history books you will find that Jews have lived among us without any problem. The real problems began in the wake of the Israeli occupation of Arab territory, the expulsion of Arabs from their homeland, and the building of settlments on their land. The problem lies in the occupation of Arab territory, the liberation of which will open the doors wide for confidence-building measures.

[Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Network in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 1 November carries a report from Madrid on the al-Shar' news conference which adds the following: "Replying to a question on the date for the bilateral talks, al-Shar' said: U.S. Secretary of State James Baker clearly explained in his speech today that they will begin as soon as possible. He also indicated the need for consultations prior to that. With regard to us, our viewpoint is clear. We want to continue here until

the end. Despite this, however, the cosponsors of the conference have the right to consult with the concerned parties. We will welcome any suggestion by the two parties."]

Change in Venue Unjustified

JN0111165591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Report by Syria radio team in Madrid]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference in Madrid today during which he announced that there is no justification for transferring bilateral negotiations from Madrid to any other place following the conclusion of the opening session. Al-Shar' said: We came to Madrid after an agreement had been reached among all the parties concerned to hold the peace conference in Madrid. We had never throught of, nor have we discussed with anyone, the issue of transferring the bilateral talks to another place after the conclusion of the opening session. Therefore, our understanding was that a question of this kind—namely, transferring the venue of the bilateral talks to another country—called for astonishment and dismay. It has transpired that it was Israel which raised the issue of transferring the venue of the bilateral talks from Madrid.

We consider this proposal unjustified. The Spanish people are hospitable, the arrangements have been good, and an atmosphere of peace is engulfing us. We are intending to realize this peace. Since we have come here, Madrid is the suitable venue.

Al-Shar' said that the Arab sides participating in the peace conference will hold a meeting this evening to coordinate stands among themselves.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin had earlier announced at a news conference that bilateral talks would begin in Madrid the day after tomorrow. He [not further identified] said that one of the points on the agenda will be defining a venue for subsequent negotiations. Baker said that he and Pankin will be trying to overcome this obstacle within the next two days. [passage omitted]

Jordanians Brief Press

JN0111195791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1822 GMT 1 Nov 91

[News conference by Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Jordanian foreign minister and head of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, in Madrid on 1 November—recorded; italicized passages are in Arabic fading into English translation; remaining questions and answers are in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] *Your Excellency, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, do you think that determining the venue of bilateral meetings will be an obstacle to continuing these meetings, especially since Israel insists on having the meetings held in the countries of the region?*

[Abu-Jabir] *At the present time I do not think that there are as many difficulties with regard to this as some people think. I believe that Israeli insistence on holding the bilateral meetings in the Middle East is premature and we do not really know the reason behind this insistence. We believe that it is better to maintain bilateral negotiations, that could last for months, here in Madrid or any other European state.*

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. al-Majali, what is the first item on your agenda for the bilateral talks? What are you going to put as your number one issue when you begin talking with the Israelis face to face?

[Al-Majali] I think Secretary Baker said something very essential this morning: Security, land, and peace are always connected together; you can't have one without the other. So these three subjects, which are linked together, will be on the table. Settlements will be on the table; water will be on the table; occupied Jordan territories will be on the table. But that does not mean which is going to be the first is the most important. I think they are all important, but that would depend on the bilateral talks which, to set this agenda, should we start with this subject, or with this subject, or with this subject. [as heard] We have to discuss that and agree upon that.

[Unidentified reporter] *Mr. Minister, how do you briefly assess the proceedings of the past three days of the peace conference, and what do you expect the United States to do for the cause of peace?*

[Abu-Jabir] *I believe that the three days were important and to a certain extent successful. The parties involved have expressed their different points of view, and the parties have heard each others' positions. So, we would want from the United States that it respect its commitments, that it continue to press when things require pressure, and that it continue along with the peace process and not leave us in the middle of the road.*

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] announced that tonight is going to be a meeting between the heads of Arab delegations. Could you answer us if disagreement for this meeting, and if after the meeting, is going to be some press conference on information for us?

[Abu-Jabir] Yes, as you know, we have been coordinating prior to this meeting. We have coordinated during this meeting of the past three days, and I think we will continue to meet over the weeks and months to come. It is most natural that the Arabs coordinate their efforts. Needless to say, there are certain points on which there are difference of opinion, but that is not really very substantial, at least at this moment, and wrinkles can be worked out. The meeting tonight is to discuss such matters.

[Unidentified reporter] *I have a follow-up to that question. Does this coordination mean that you as a Jordanian- Palestinian delegation are going to reject direct negotiations with Israel, and if the Syrians reject bilateral negotiations?*

[Abu-Jabir] [words indistinct] your assumption, we will wait and see what the Syrians think. For me to answer on behalf of the Syrians now, to put it mildly, will be undiplomatic.

[Unidentified reporter] If the discussions on the bilateral level between the Israel-Syrian group would run into difficulty because, probably, Syria would say Israel should withdraw from the Golan and Israel would say initially we will not withdraw, so there might be an impasse there; but on the contrary, with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, the discussions are going to focus right now not on the land-for-peace formula but rather on the interim period. It sounds like a little bit easier project to broach. So if we run into an impasse on the Syrian front, would you still continue the negotiations with the Palestinians on the interim period or there would be a total Arab unified position and the whole process would reach a stalemate?

[Al-Majali] Thank you very much for the question. First, even in the Jordanian-Israeli meeting there are going to be quite a few subjects, and some of these subjects will meet obstacles. So they can... [changes thought] These obstacles should not come into a black and white and people will walk out. The same thing with the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. They may have obstacles. The obstacles doesn't mean they stop and walk out. If that is the case, people will talk together and try to come to a decision. Our brothers in Syria, we have always cooperated with them on a stand together. So we will keep that as much as we can, but certainly they have their opinion and we have our opinion.

[Unidentified reporter] Abu-Jabir, it seems from Secretary Baker's press conference that he said something to the effect that the United States will work towards a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem based on 242 and 338, which means land for peace and the eventual implementation of 242 and 338. It seems this is the first time they used the term implementation of 242 and 338. Did you note this development in the American position, and if you do, how do you assess it?

[Abu-Jabir] Well, I think that the United States is sincere about its intention to see the peace process go and keep on track. This is especially true in the wake of the Gulf crisis and in the wake of the birth of a new world order. It just doesn't make sense as far as the United States—my own reading—for one country to make its own rules and live by them outside of the arena of international law. I think on that score, the United States wants to see an implementation. Now how will this be translated into actions on the ground. Someone was asking me if the United States will attack Israeli militarily. I doubt it very much, to put it mildly, I doubt it extremely, very much. But then how will that intention be translated is another matter. But we have to admit that this is the first time that we see an American President, an American Administration that is willing to go this far in bringing Israel to the peace table.

Israel, as you know, has been screaming for the past 40 years: We want the Arabs to sit and negotiate with us face to face; please put the Arabs before us; the Arabs refuse negotiations; the Arabs are doing this—and now we are sitting with them. Now they are the ones who are turning their face away. Now will the United States use its ultimate pressure on them, we don't know yet, we have to see. The whole conference has a dynamic of its own. We have to wait and see how the dynamics will work and how much that will be reflected on Israel, we don't know yet.

Hanan 'Ashrawi News Conference

JN0111204591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1843 GMT 1 Nov 91

[News conference by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Palestinian delegation spokesperson, in Madrid on 1 November—recorded; italicized passages are in Arabic fading into English translation; remaining questions and answers are in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] The Palestinians have always maintained their peace offensive and relentless quest for peace—peace based on justice, on the preservation of our national rights, and on our definite and firm commitment to our right to self-determination, leading to independent statehood under our legitimate leadership. I would like to announce that the first bilaterals will be held on Sunday in Madrid, and the Palestinian delegation will attend these bilaterals. The subject of this first session will be mainly, or purely, procedural issues dealing with venue, timing, and modalities. I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have.

[Unidentified reporter] Yes, please. Are you prepared on behalf—are you prepared, when discussing venues and modalities in that first session on Sunday—to agree to move your bilateral discussions to the Middle East, as the Israelis request, saying that they are already living side by side with the Palestinians, and that's where those talks belong?

['Ashrawi] We are prepared to move to the Middle East if we have an independent state in which we can host the bilaterals, but we are a people under occupation, and we cannot negotiate under duress. Secretary Baker expressed this very clearly in his speech the other day, that he understands the concerns of the Palestinians, and he knows the difficulty in this asymmetrical situation, that Palestinians under occupation cannot negotiate freely. And we know, that as Palestinians, we have told the cosponsors, time and time again, that the one thing we cannot do is negotiate under duress while our people are being held captive, and while we ourselves are

subject to censorship, to curfews, to checkpoints, roadblocks, detentions, interrogations, prevention from movement or travel. I don't think the atmosphere under occupation is conducive to free, and open, and constructive negotiations. We need to meet and negotiate freely as equals, the Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation, in a neutral third party host country, which would be able to supply the facilities and the security needed, and which would not exercise any undue influence on the course of the negotiations. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] *Given the suffering that you have undergone until this moment becomes a reality, do you think that we are closer to the concept of the idea of territory for peace? In other words, can you say where we are right now? Thank you.*

['Ashrawi] *We have been proceeding over recent months toward the possibility of putting into practice the idea of territory for peace. These are the terms of reference, and this has been shown in international decrees and Resolution 242. With regard to the radical position of the Israelis, I think that Israel, personally, cannot impose its will on the course of the negotiations. There are other parties involved. There are two cosponsors of the event, and I think that Israel should respect the principles and bases of the event.*

[Unidentified reporter] It seems to me that in the bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, the Palestinians are the ones who have more to gain. So, if it comes to a point between the negotiations breaking off and giving in to the Israelis, and restarting the substance of bilateral talks in Jerusalem or in Ramallah, doesn't it make more sense to give in on this point just to get things started?

['Ashrawi] Not at all, because you would first be negating the whole legitimacy of the negotiations, because according to the Fourth Geneva Convention, the occupied cannot negotiate with their occupier while there are violations of the rights of occupied, of the protected peoples. So this is a legal point which we have to take into account other than the actual points of substance. We cannot negotiate with our occupier under duress. They are holding us hostage. We are at their mercy. And this has happened before. Even in our meetings with Baker we were quite often late because we were stopped at checkpoint and a few Israeli soldiers decided to be rude and overbearing. Our phones are tapped. We do not have free access to anything we want. We cannot move freely physically. People are constantly harassed, interrogated, imprisoned. Certainly, these are not conditions conducive to proper negotiations.

But, at the same time, I would like to question your assumption that the Palestinians have the most to gain. We have heard this time and time again, the most to gain and the most to lose. I think that Israel has a lot to gain, and I think if they have the sense of historic responsibility and understanding of their responsibility to their own people, they would know that this is a unique opportunity to find a real place for themselves in the region. They have to make their historical decision of whether they want to be a state with external connections to the West, and therefore alien or imposed on the region, or whether they want to be a Middle Eastern state in the midst of other states dealing with each other equally in order to bring about mutual development for the whole region. And I think that Israel has the most to gain. The Palestinians can gain the withdrawal, and ending the occupation, and statehood, but we have waited a long time—and we are known for our perseverance—and we have worked very hard, and I think we will endure. It's not going to be the end of the world. But Israel, if it misses this opportunity, or if it manages to derail the process, then I think the price will be very high for everybody involved, not just the Palestinians.

[Unidentified reporter] I have a question, if possible, one addressed to Hanan and one addressed to Rashid [al-Khʿlidi, member of the Palestinian advisory council, who is sitting next to 'Ashrawi]. The first one is: In terms of substance regarding the forthcoming bilateral discussions, are you going to raise there the question of putting a freeze on settlements in the territories; and also the question of the Israeli Government taking some of the confidence-building measures, as Dr. Haydar, for instance, in general terms, mentioned in his speech? And the question, and if you are going to raise this thing and Israel is going to refuse to carry them out, does that mean that the first session of talks on substance in the bilateral discussion is going to run into an impasse? In the question, if possible....

['Ashrawi, interrupting] Let me answer this and then you will ask him. First of all, I don't like to indulge in negative projections and anticipating failure. The first session of the bilaterals will have to deal with procedural issues, primarily. So I don't think we run the risk of failure because we have to deal with venue, with scheduling, with procedure and so on. The second, yes, and I am sure that with the second there will be other issues raised. I will not discuss here negotiating strategies, but we can say that the Palestinians are dedicated to making this process work. It doesn't mean that we are going to stay there regardless of what happens, but it means that we are going to find different ways of achieving what we need, including a cessation of all settlement activity and the implementation of genuine confidence-building measures. And I think we can be creative enough in order to find different ways of implementing these things, and I am sure that Israel will be called upon to demonstrate sufficient goodwill and seriousness of intent to carry out these measures.

[Unidentified reporter] Rashid, the other day, I think two days ago, you had a meeting with Baker and it was a meeting which.... [changes thought] I mean the Palestinian party consisted of both people from Jerusalem, which is all right; I mean Baker was talking to Hanan and Faysal al-Husayni for a long time; but he, so to speak, talked to people from the diaspora, like you and Anis al-Qasim. Do you think this signals a further step in

America, the possibility that America might renew even the dialogue with the PLO, if it goes on like this, upgrading the discussions with the Palestinians?

[Al-Khalidi] I think that it does represent a step forward. But you should remember that Secretary of State Shultz has met in this context with Palestinians from the diaspora. What Secretary Baker was doing was reaffirming—symbolically—existing, firm American policy, that the Palestinian people are a single entity.

Egypt's Musa Briefs Press

NC0111170591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1451 GMT 1 Nov 91

[News conference by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Madrid—live; Musa and reporters speak in both Arabic and English; English portions processed from Arabic voiceovers]

[Text] [Musa] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I am happy to be here with you after three days of the conference. I am ready for your questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister: I have two questions. The first concerns delaying your return to Cairo. As for the other, or do you prefer to answer the first one first?

[Musa] Concerning the timing of my return to Cairo, it was scheduled and there is no delay. So there is no problem here. What is the other question?

[Correspondent] Do you believe that what happened at the conference and on its sidelines will ease Egypt's burdens in the peace process or add new ones? Thank you.

[Musa] The coming peace process is wide-ranging and complicated. Egypt will undertake these commitments as it undertook its commitments and played its role during the preparations for this process. Undoubtedly this will add burdens on us workwise, but we are willing to do that for the sake of the success of the peace process.

[Mujalli] Nazir Mujalli, AL-ITTIHAD newspaper. My question is: Has there been any change in Egypt's stand vis-a-vis the PLO? The question arises after I noticed that your two speeches at the conference made no mention of the PLO.

[Musa] Egypt's relationship with the PLO and the Palestinian people is firm. As for the speech, it was prepared to be delivered at a peace conference. There is a Palestinian delegation that represents the Palestinian people, and this is the delegation we are addressing within the framework of the peace process as well as the conference that concluded today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, I believe that the Arab delegations participating in the peace conference are ready to accept what you accepted in your dealings with Israel 12 years ago, when you took your land back in exchange for peace. Why do you think Israel still rejects this principle, and do you think that the efforts being exerted now at the peace conference are adequate to make Israel accept what it accepted then, that is, to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza? Thank you.

[Musa] The understanding is that the principle of land for peace, which is the core of Resolution 242, constitutes the basis for negotiations. Naturally, we cannot reach a just and lasting peace, meaning a just and lasting settlement, without implementing the principle of land in exchange for peace; that is, Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967, in addition to the other issues that concern the Palestinian people's rights.

[Al-Shubashi] Faridah al-Shubashi, Paris Radio Monte Carlo. Mr. Minister, how do you assess the conference after the clear hard-line Israeli stand? Are you still optimistic that the peace process will continue in a promising manner?

[Musa] Certainly, we all are optimistic now because the step represented in the convening of the peace conference was an important step along the road to start the peace process. Naturally, it is important that after this step the negotiations process should begin in order to reach agreements that would lead us to the final settlement. I do not want to appear to be or even look overoptimistic, but there is a degree of optimism and there is a cause for this optimism. The cause is that the peace process has begun.

[Shakir] Shakir, AL-DUSTUR. Do you believe that Cairo is prepared to receive the joint committees in Cairo?

[Musa] We did not discuss the venue of the committee meetings.

[Question indistinct].

[Musa] Beginning a difficult a process like that [words indistinct] I still believe that we have achieved great success and the negotiations will take place as we agreed.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, as is known, there is no problem between Egypt and Israel. We want you to shed some light on the nature of the Egyptian role in the peace process, particularly during the next phase of bilateral negotiations.

[Musa] We talked a lot about the Egyptian role in the peace process. We are participating in this process. We are extremely eager for this process to produce positive results. We have a role in the conference itself and we have a role in the committees which will meet within the framework of the conference. As for the bilateral talks, we have no problem with Israel concerning occupation or land. Therefore, we have no reason to form a bilateral committee with Israel. We will be there to assist the negotiators with our experience, preparations, and certain views regarding the negotiations process. The Egyptian role is to participate in a number of negotiations. It

is also an observer role which will help and assist in the bilateral talks. I have said previously that the Egyptian role is a special one because Egypt is in contact or capable of holding contacts with all the sides of conflict or all sides to the negotiations. This gives Egypt and the Egyptian delegation a special feature that can be useful.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us if the Egyptian role is to convince the Arab countries to abandon the boycott of Israel?

[Musa] This is one of the issues that must be discussed during the negotiations. You remember well that we have already proposed an initiative to facilitate the negotiations and their success. We proposed that Israel stop building settlements in return for the Arabs' abandoning the boycott. Therefore, [word indistinct] and the boycott are among the issues on the negotiations table. We still pin hopes that [words indistinct] will put an end soon [words indistinct]. This issue and others will be the subject of bilateral talks.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, with regard to the harsh and strident words said this morning [words indistinct] when you spoke, addressed the Israeli delegation, and mentioned only Shamir. You did not talk about the Syrians. Why?

[Musa] I appealed to all parties to enter into new negotiations with each other. What disturbed the entire atmosphere today was the first speaker, Prime Minister Shamir's speech [words indistinct] the talks between the parties. Israel is occupying Arab territories and there is still disregard for Palestinian rights. We therefore need Israel to take several steps. We naturally have to address our words equally to all the parties.

[Radwan] From the occupied territories press delegation. Mr. Minister, you have experience negotiating with Israel. How do you see the intransigent Israeli stand on the Jerusalem issue? Will it help open the way or establish opportunities for peace?

[Musa] The stands expressed now could be preliminary ones. We are still at the start of negotiations, and we should expect some rigid stands. We call on all parties to take flexible stands to help the negotiations process, the peace process. Jerusalem must be a subject of negotiation and should be one of the subjects on the negotiating table. We cannot imagine that all the problems can be solved without resolving the Jerusalem issue, which concerns millions of Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, Christians, and Jews worldwide.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, I was privileged to be the guest of the late president Anwar al-Sadat in 1978 and I really regret that he is not here. (?We would have benefited) from his experience. In the Camp David agreements, the land for peace principle was the basis on which Israel gave up territory. Now there is little land left [words indistinct]. I do not know what al-Sadat's position would have been today.

[Musa] We are not speaking of a real estate deal. We are speaking of territories owned by [word indistinct] and peoples. There is an occupation that contradicts UN and UN Security Council resolutions. We are seeking an agreement on a peaceful solution and settlement. We are not trying to strike deals in a real estate market to regain this piece of land for another. It is a question of principle because UN Security Council 242 refers to the territories occupied in 1967 during military operations between Egypt and Israel, Syria and Israel, and Jordan and Israel. This requires withdrawal on all fronts. The Israeli withdrawal from Sinai was carried out in accordance with a peace treaty [words indistinct]. We expect Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights and the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

[Correspondent] How much would you like to see the United States actually participating in the bilateral talks?

[Musa] We want the United States to participate fully and comprehensively in the bilateral talks. We have to go back to the agreement on which this process was begun. Certainly, it is natural for the United States to participate in the [words indistinct] inside or outside the hall. We are confident that they will actually participate. The United States has to participate in these negotiations. Thank you.

[Correspondent] I think the Palestinian delegation has proposed that the transitional government should be under UN guardianship and authority. What is the government's position on this? What are your comments on the Palestinian delegation's proposal?

[Musa] We support a UN role in that process. We wish to note that the United Nations as an international body has a role to play in the peace process. As to this proposal, I do not wish to comment on any proposals unless there are negotiations going on about them.

[Unidentified correspondent] Shamir has made a statement asking the Israeli opposition not to criticize the government during the conference. Does this mean that Shamir led the Israeli delegation for internal motives, to strengthen the Likud inside Israel so that it will not lose during the conference, or for external motives, to be a source of strength for the delegation during the negotiations?

[Musa] It could be either one, but these are all internal matters, so allow me not to comment.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do we understand from you that Egypt, which [words indistinct] the invitation of the state of Egypt to [words indistinct] during this period in which the peace conference was postponed?

[Musa] First I should say that we are all happy to be here in Madrid and the Spanish Government has provided splendid facilities for us to launch the peace process. [words indistinct] hope that the negotiations will begin soon—at the end of this week—to start the process. As far as we are concerned, the process is very important.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you believe that this conference [words indistinct] the process that will take several weeks and months? Will there be [words indistinct] on Sunday?

[Musa] Bilateral negotiations during this period. We hope that the parties will agree to continue the negotiations here or to continue negotiations in any case. [brief break in transmission]

[Musa] I hope that all of them will be here.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you confirm this?

[Musa] I cannot confirm this. We will do so this afternoon.

[Sami] Sami, ONA. Your Excellency, do you see any possibility for the bilateral negotiations to begin on different dates and in different venues? In other words, should the Israelis and the Syrians fail to agree on starting bilateral negotiations but the Israelis and the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation agree, would you welcome this? Does the Arab side object to this idea?

[Musa] I think you have heard the official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation speak of the decision to attend the bilateral talks on Sunday. This is an important Palestinian decision. The important thing is for us to begin the negotiations. We do not want to waste time because it in not in the interests of the negotiators or Arabs to waste time.

[Unidentified DAVAR correspondent] Will his excellency President Husni Mubarak meet with Prime Minister Shamir soon to give an encouraging sign to the negotiating parties in Madrid?

[Musa] We want to encourage all parties to proceed with the negotiating process. A Mubarak-Shamir meeting is possible but requires important and serious preparations. The meeting should produce results in favor of the peace process on the basis of land for peace.

[passage indistinct] [Unidentified correspondent] Are there guarantees or a clear desire from all parties, including Israel, that both the bilateral and multiparty negotiations will continue without stopping?

[Musa] I am sure that all the parties, Israel and the Arab parties, are interested in continuing the negotiations. I cannot accuse Israel of attempting to sabotage this conference or [words indistinct] but all are interested in continuing the peace process and the negotiations.

[AL-YAWM correspondent] Mr. Minister, how do you explain the Israeli attacks in south Lebanon and the imposition of a curfew inside the occupied territories during the peace conference?

[Musa] We regret all these measures which damage confidence-building. On the contrary, we demand confidence-building measures between the parties. We call on Israel to help establish these measures so the Palestinian people can follow the peace process by gaining from it. We deeply regretted the measures taken in south Lebanon. Any aggression against Lebanese sovereignty is against international law and what we want.

[Unidentified correspondent] Under the Camp David accord, Israel returned the Sinai desert to Egypt. To date, however, relations have not been normalized between the two countries. What, in your view, is the effect of this on Israel's willingness to return more territories to the Arabs?

[Musa] After the Camp David agreement and the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, Israel withdrew from Egyptian territories in accordance with Resolution 242. Peace was established between the two countries and relations are normal. Why do Egyptians not visit Israel? They do not visit Israel because of what is happening in the occupied Arab territories. We cannot travel to and stay in a country [words indistinct] and where there is no stability. Therefore, we call on Israel to halt building settlements and stop challenging [words indistinct] for the sake of peace and for the sake of establishing good relations with neighboring countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] We were told that Israeli planes raided south Lebanon three times.

[Musa] We (?strongly) condemn such attacks, Israeli planes strafing south Lebanon. This is aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty that we oppose because it will damage the peace possibilities and the peace process that has just only begun.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, are there any European alternatives if the U.S. role in guaranteeing the continuation of the conference fails?

[Musa] Let us not think of the failure of the conference now. Let us think of the success of the conference. I will take two more questions. Yes, please. This is the second to last question.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, if Israel is intransigent about deciding the venue of the bilateral talks, will Egypt be willing to host these talks?

[Correspondent] We hope that all the parties will agree to begin the negotiations in Madrid. Afterward we will see what happens and discuss matters in light of fresh developments.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister.

[Musa] Yes, please.

[Correspondent] According to the invitation extended to the various parties, the multilateral talks will begin in two weeks. According to a certain view, it is necessary to link progress in these talks with progress in the bilateral talks and on the Arabs obtaining their rights and territories. What is your comment on this view? Do you accept it? Thank you.

[Musa] Was there somebody who asked a question on this side? Okay, go ahead.

[Correspondent] Would you separately convince any Arab country to sign (?an agreement) with Israel? What will [word indistinct] role be in the third stage of the peace process [words indistinct]

[Musa] Please repeat your question.

[Correspondent] Would you separately convince any Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel? What will Egypt's role be in the third stage of the peace process, and in the referendum on Palestinian self-determination?

[Musa] First of all, negotiations are, by definition, a long process. We are participating in a process to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. This is the purpose of what we are doing. According to the Palestinian side, self-determination is indeed a basic right. Hence, we support any arrangement that will lead to that end—that the Palestinians should exercise their right to self-determination.

[Correspondent] Egypt directly signed a peace treaty with Israel. In the context of the current talks, what would Egypt's position be toward the other countries if they signed peace treaties with Israel?

[Musa] Our position is clear. We want all the Arab parties and Israel to embark on a process that will lead to an agreement between them and a peace that will introduce a new era and a new climate in this region. This is (?our position) on such treaties, provided that Israel respects and implement UN Security Council Resolution 242 by carrying out a total withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights. I wish to add here that Resolution 242 refers to Israeli rights [words indistinct]. We need a peaceful settlement not only for the Arab countries, but for Israel as well. We want a balanced settlement. The Middle East badly needs such a settlement. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Our time is up.

Musa 'Cautiously Optimistic'

NC0111185891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 1 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the proceedings of the first stage of the peace conference that ended in Madrid this afternoon give positive signs that the peace process can reach a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East.

He said he is cautiously optimistic, noting that what happened during the conference is a positive step because all the parties to the conflict attended, sat at one table, and listened to each other.

In an exclusive statement to Egyptian correspondents in Madrid, Musa said that Israel is fully aware that it is entering into the peace process and that this requires it to return the territories to their owners in exchange for peace. This also requires holding negotiations and making decisions on clear bases, he added.

He noted that the multiparty negotiations will start on time, that is, two weeks from the start of the conference, and that they will possibly start in Madrid.

'Amr Musa stressed that Egypt will coordinate with all the parties to the peace conference out of its desire to ensure the success of the peace process. He said that Egypt is coordinating with the United States, as it is the one that took the peace initiative, and also with the Soviet Union as the cosponsor of the conference. He added: Egypt is also coordinating with all the Arab parties and has meetings with Israel. Our ultimate aim is to ensure the success of the peace process and to achieve security and stability in the region.

Egypt Said Preparing Proposals

JN0111182891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Mustafa Bakri report from Cairo]

[Text] Informed Egyptian sources have told our radio that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has prepared a working paper connected with the next phase of the peace conference negotiations. The paper includes several important proposals regarding bilateral talks between Israel and each of the Arab sides. The paper emphasizes the need for an immediate application of the principles of goodwill before beginning political negotiations on complex issues.

Concerning bilateral talks between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the paper suggests that Israel stop all acts of violence against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, release political prisoners, stop bannings and deportations, and stop the construction of settlements. This is all provided that the Palestinians participating on the negotiating team refrain from issuing any security threats to Israel.

As for Israeli-Syrian negotiations, the Egyptian working paper emphasizes the need to stop the construction of settlements in the Golan Heights and to announce its intention to accept the principle of withdrawal. In exchange, the Syrians will pledge not to undertake any action that might threaten Israeli security throughout the period of negotiations.

Concerning Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, the paper proposes that Israel pledge to stop all its military operations and raids on southern Lebanon and other Lebanese villages in exchange for a pledge from the Lebanese Government that it will not extend any assistance or support to elements that threaten Israeli security, and that it will denounce such actions when they occur.

Finally, the paper proposes that all parties concerned must accept a direct international role during the next phase of the negotiations in order to promote the peace march.

It has been learned that Cairo has begun contacts with the parties concerned on the substance of the Egyptian proposals.

Pankin Addresses Closing Session

PA0211014191 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1109 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Address by Boris Pankin, Soviet foreign minister and head of the Soviet delegation, to the closing session of the Madrid peace conference at the Palacio Real in Madrid; in Russian with simultaneous Spanish voice-over—live]

[Text] I will now take the floor as head of the Soviet delegation. Ministers, Participants in the conference, Ladies and Gentlemen: We have been working at this Madrid forum for three days. During these three days and despite everything, I—and I think most of you in attendance—have been under the impression that here, at the palace, we are probably making and participating in a historic turn in contemporary Near East history. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa wondered about this. I can answer him by saying that our conference might represent a turning point in the fate of the entire region. The perspective of a peaceful solution is now emerging for the Near peoples, who for several decades have been suffering war and insecurity and who carry the burden of occupation, eviction from their homes, and terrorism. Apparently, mankind is now beginning to understand the vital importance of decisively stopping hostilities, enmity, and confrontation. The desire is now stronger for new approaches, based on a balance of interests, to solve the problems that have accumulated for decades. I understand perfectly that this is difficult and unique. I am convinced, however, that it is possible to fulfill with dignity this mission that history has entrusted to us and that we can do it in such a way that the winds of change can be a reality in the Near East, too.

We know how much can be attained through dialogue, by each of the sides coming to meet the others. The road to Madrid has been difficult and complex. For the representatives of Israel and the Arab states to meet, it was necessary to overcome obstacles that sometimes appeared insurmountable. It was necessary for many countries to make every effort and carry out detailed and painstaking work, to seek uncommon solutions intently, and to make realistic commitments. Each of the participants in the Near East conference had to put forward all its goodwill and lay aside many stereotypes and taboos. We have succeeded in passing through this stretch of the road. For the time being, however, this is just that, one stretch of the road. I wish to recall that the Soviet Union always favored convening this Near East forum, which might give impetus to the search for solutions in this region.

The possibility of making a practical rapprochement emerged after President Gorbachev and President Bush met in Helsinki in September. The Soviet Union and the United States pledged to act jointly in the interest of a radical solution of the Near East situation. Without a doubt, the interaction and cooperation of two big powers has been one of the decisive factors that has made it possible to convene this Madrid conference. During the preparation stages, the Soviet Union and the United States kept in touch constantly and acted as partners, complementing each other's efforts. Particularly intense and coordinated actions were taken in the final stage of preparations for the conference. I would like to point out that the European Community's efforts played an important role in the preparatory stages of this conference. The West European countries possess considerable potential to make a constructive contribution in establishing cooperation and good-neighbor relations among the countries of this region. We congratulate ourselves on the participation of the European Community representatives in this peace conference.

By itself, the convocation for peace is a remarkable step forward and a shared success. It is important, however, for us to prevent this from getting out of hand and to make sure that our efforts are not made in vain.

This is the moment of transition to bilateral and multilateral talks. The three days of work at the conference have not diminished my hopes of overcoming this moment. As one of the final orators, I have a great advantage over those who preceded me. I must take the opportunity to share my views on the results of these three days of work.

With all the emotions we have seen here, the delegation leaders seemed to have focused on the most agonizing problems of the Near East. The broad spectrum of points of view that emerged during the talks has not blinded us to what we have in common and to the issue that all sides agree on: an interest in establishing a lasting and just peace in the Near East and in resolving the problems that have turned the region into the world's powder keg.

Each of us has his own model solution for the problems in the Near East, where peace, harmony, justice, and security are needed. These models may differ in certain details, even in important ones. This is inevitable because we cannot deny the differences in our historical experiences, traditions, and passions. Undoubtedly the authors of each of these models would like to believe that their models are feasible. I believe all models should have one main starting point: they should seek a balance of interests.

Allow me, since I have followed President Gorbachev, to state briefly my opinion of the key moments of the peace process. First, the talks must lead both Arabs and Israelis to a historic pledge that will help them leave behind all

disputes and psychological, territorial, and national conflicts that separate them now. All of the countries and states in the Near East should be guaranteed the right and the possibility to live in peace and harmony within internationally recognized and safe borders.

We cannot focus on anyone here, nor can we exclude anyone, neither Palestinian nor Israeli. The historic pledge between the Arabs and Israelis must contain a central idea and goal, a fundamental goal, which is a solution. The realization of this goal should be a beacon for our search and the core of future agreements regarding the establishment of a global, fair, and solid peace. This goal will be unattainable without mutually acceptable territorial agreements, as well as agreements on the core of the problem, which is the Palestinian issue. After all, there cannot be two opinions on the fact that Resolution 242, which is the foundation of our conference, establishes the principle of exchanging territory for peace. This principle is applicable to all fronts: the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights. The return of these territories to their legitimate owners will make it possible to turn interstate borders into bridges of communication and to overcome the obstacles to ending the war and establishing peace.

Second, the process must end the tragedy that the Palestinian people, 4 million people, have endured for so many years. The Palestinian problem is the primary source of the disturbances that on more than one occasion have torn the region and made the entire planet tremble. It is understandable how the Palestinian problem has gradually increased with various layers of complex problems that cannot be eliminated all at once.

The conference participants have proven once again that a solution must obviously undergo a transitional phase before a definitive agreement can be reached. There can be no doubt, however, that the Palestinians are entitled to self-determination, which is established in the UN Charter as a natural and inalienable right. Therefore, the negotiations should be conducted responsibly and with goodwill on both sides to determine how this right can be exercised, taking into consideration the specific situations on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I believe the variables proposed by the peace process' cosponsors have made it possible to find a realistic solution to this problem, taking both the Palestinians' and the Israelis' interests into consideration.

Third, a dignified solution that is acceptable for everyone must be found about Jerusalem. The religious interests of the people—not only from the Near East but also from the rest of the world—are at stake here. I believe that it will take us quite some time to find a common denominator in these positions, and it will be necessary to show great tolerance and sensibility on this critical and sensitive topic. The eyes of every believer—Muslim, Jew, or Christian—are turned toward the sacred mosques, temples, and synagogues, and we must treat their feelings with great care.

Fourth, it is necessary to guarantee compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Lebanon.

Fifth, within this difficult movement toward the achievement of peace and security in the Near East, one cannot avoid solving the problem of implementing the cooperation of all parties in this region, because only the closely woven fabric of mutual understanding is capable of consolidating close relations and guaranteeing authentic security for each and every one.

The process to achieve an agreement in the Near East has begun at a time when the level of mutual trust is, unfortunately, very low. The proportions of the problems we must overcome are also very big. Above all, I want to mention here the rash arms buildup. The Near East is sad testimony to an uncontrollable accumulation of deadly arsenals that deplete the states' material resources, encourage a dangerous warmongering attitude, and turn the whole region into a mine field. The last tragic example of this is the events that occurred in the Persian Gulf.

In other words, the alarm has sounded and we are pleased with the fact that all the Near East parties are more frequently thinking about practical measures that must be adopted to limit weapons levels in the region. There are many other common regional problems in the Near East that can only be overcome through joint efforts; and the Near East people know, better than anyone, the value of water. Therefore, it is impossible to conserve water resources for future generations in a separate or isolated way.

Likewise, we cannot ignore the terrorism problem that causes so much anguish to all Arab and Israeli families. The inhuman kidnapping of hostages is still a bomb that threatens the process to achieve a solution in the Near East.

Ecological destruction is also a problem that knows no bounds. Let us recall that the threat of an ecological disaster during the Persian Gulf crisis surpassed that of the conflict.

Furthermore, it is difficult to imagine the Near East's future without implementing broad and egalitarian economic cooperation. The divisions caused by mistrust, conflict, and confrontations in the region preclude its participation in overall efforts to develop the world economy; this should prompt the states to unite their efforts. All these problems must be solved at the negotiating table if we want enmity and mistrust replaced by a historic pledge between the Arabs and Israel. Perhaps this will later lead to the construction of a common house in the Near East.

Ladies and gentlemen, our plenary sessions are about to end. The parties have stated their positions. We must now start direct talks and the drafting of bilateral and multilateral agreements to guarantee an overall agreement based on Resolutions 242 and 338. Let us, therefore, be realistic. Our conference gives us, for the time

being, the possibility of achieving a solution. We must carefully handle this possibility and try to avoid excessive nationalism in the negotiation process—today and tomorrow.

Therefore, I want to issue an appeal to the representatives of all the parties attending this event. They must show a much more constructive attitude and a willingness to bear in mind each others' worries and interests. That is the best way to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Therefore, it is important to discuss specific topics in an organized way, through bilateral working groups. We are truly convinced that we can possibly start this in Madrid without disrupting the rhythm of our work.

The diverse and complex character of the process makes it absolutely necessary to take one step at a time when discussing the problems concerning the organization of these multilateral talks. Now, like the very air we breathe, it is absolutely essential for the two parties to give testimony of their goodwill. One of the signs of goodwill toward the dialogue will undoubtedly be ceasing the creation of settlements in occupied zones. I believe that, in this case, the Arab countries could also take the necessary steps to reach a common ground.

I wish to reassert that, as a cosponsor, the Soviet Union is willing to cooperate actively to create a favorable atmosphere to achieve an agreement. I am sure that this will be favored by the partnership established with the other cosponsor, the United States, and with the trust given to the cosponsors by all the participants in these meetings. If things continue like this, these three days in Madrid will go down in Near East history as a starting point of a new egalitarian period—the period of a strong and durable peace.

In our opinion, this situation will allow us to guarantee the Near East people a future worthy of their great past and the role they have played in the history of world civilization. This region offered the world its first alphabet and the three universal religions; it has made great achievements in mathematics, astronomy, and medicine; and it has produced incalculable works of culture, architecture, and literature. This region has always been a crossroads in world commerce and it may now become the site of fruitful and broad international cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a beautiful symbolism and a good sign that this peace conference has convened in Spain, the country where Eastern and European civilizations met and harmoniously mingled. I consider it my duty to thank cordially the host country and the Spanish leaders—His Majesty King Juan Carlos, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez- Ordonez—for offering us the opportunity to hold the conference here.

Ladies and gentlemen, the book of Ecclesiastes says: There is a time to destroy and a time to build. I am firmly convinced that the time of the builders has come to the Near East. Let us do what we can to pave the way for them. Thank you. [applause]

Holds News Conference

PA0211031891 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1227 GMT 1 Nov 91

[News conference by Boris Pankin, Soviet foreign minister and head of the Soviet delegation, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, with unidentified reporters at the Country House in Madrid—live; Pankin speaks in Russian with Spanish voiceover

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Pankin, in progress] ...world history and culture and, from our viewpoint, also with the risk of affecting the economy. This deep interest can be explained because, during the most recent decades, the Middle East has not produced much good news. We have more often heard about hostages, shooting, and murders. At present, despite all sorrows, we can be more optimistic. The good news is that this peace conference has been convened. The good news is that, for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the main protagonists are seated at the same table, in the same room. The good news is that the peace problem was the main subject of the delegates' speeches, although each of the sides participating in this conference has its own ideas of how this movement for peace should take place.

Each of the delegates has his own idea of the priorities. All of them more or less agree on one thing, however: that the page of war must be turned once and for all. The Soviet Union and the United States, as cosponsors of this conference, want this step of turning the page on the war to be taken as soon as possible. This was the principle underlining our joint actions during the preparatory stage and the work that followed. We agreed with Mr. Baker to follow this same line after closing the plenary sessions that have just ended.

The next stage of this peaceful process deals with bilateral talks and sessions of the working groups. Thank you. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The Jewish newspaper in Moscow has examined the possibility of introducing a gradual moratorium on the introduction of weapons to the region.

[Pankin] That issue has been included in the future agenda for the multilateral talks, at the beginning of which we should reach an agreement when we meet with various delegations after the first phase of the conference. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] I have two questions. The first question is addressed to Mr. Baker and the second question is addressed to Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin. The media are always very courteous toward you; they say that you normally do not start something without reaching your

goal. I have seen you in Geneva, with the Iraqi delegation, telling them: I have two UN resolutions that must be implemented—and the resolutions were actually implemented. Now I ask you: Will you reach this phase, meaning when you will sit with the Israelis and will tell them I have hundreds of UN resolutions that must be implemented? That is my question to Mr. Baker.

The other question is addressed to Mr. Pankin: President Gorbachev's speech included a phrase as follows: The Arab-Israeli conflict is a remnant of the cold war. Do you really believe it is a remnant of the Cold War?

Allow me to add this question to Mr. Baker: Do you intend to embark on a dialogue with the PLO after there is no reason to do so? [passage omitted]

[Pankin] I think all the bloodiest conflicts that exist are remnants of the cold war, in the broadest sense of the word, when people could not reach agreements through negotiations, consideration of human weakness, and aspirations for justice. Of course, the cold war is also very important in the narrow sense of the word. I will try to prove it this way. Relations of a different nature have been established between the Soviet Union and the United States. We have confirmed this by passing from confrontation to a relationship of cooperation and friendship. You know how many conflicts have been solved in the recent past. Even where they have not been solved, peace processes have been initiated. We have signed very important documents and instruments dealing with, for example, the Cambodian crisis. A Middle East peace conference has been started. This is what I wanted to answer and what the USSR president has in mind. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You spoke optimistically of the negotiations. Are these hopes justified even though an agreement on direct negotiations has not been reached? What do you think about the beginning of the negotiations?

[Pankin] I spoke of moderate optimism, which is still valid and which I defended in my opening remarks. The purpose of our plenary sessions was to agree that direct bilateral negotiations would be held here in Madrid in the next few days. [passage omitted]

The concern for peace has been handed down to me. I received this concern with pleasure, with my colleague U.S. Secretary of State Baker. I hope we can continue this cooperation for the good of peace and tranquility in the Middle East.

[Reporter] For the first time, you spoke of a common cause for all countries in the region. How do you view this common cause?

[Pankin] If, as I have said, the problems that now alienate Israelis from Arabs are to be solved in the framework of a historic commitment, bilateral negotiations will follow on the disarmament problem, ecological problems, the struggle against terrorism, and hostages. This would be the groundwork for the future common cause in the Middle East, just like the foundation for a common cause is being laid down in Europe. We must say that in Europe we have made great progress in this direction. Only historical circumstances, rather than people, are to blame here in Madrid. [passage omitted]

Al-Khatib on 'Disappointing' Shamir Speech

NC0111165191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Madrid, 1 Nov (MENA)—Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the peace talks in Madrid, has said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's comment before the conference this morning was "disappointing" because he did not reply to any of the principal points raised during the conference.

In a statement to MENA, al-Khatib said that Shamir was content to deal only with marginal and peripheral issues in his speech today, to attack Arab regimes, and to interfere unjustifiably in internal affairs. This had nothing to do with the peace conference. He also persisted in ignoring the bases according to which the delegations were invited to the conference, namely the UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

He added that the Palestinian speech was clear and pragmatic, posing the following challenge to the Israeli side: We are ready to give Israel security and peace if it commits itself to give the Palestinians their right to self-determination. He said that Israel must now answer this challenge. [passage omitted]

New Palestinian Committee Formed

JN0111170491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The JNA team in Madrid has learned that the U.S. and Palestinian sides participating in the peace conference have agreed to form a new Palestinian committee called the guidance committee [lajnat al-qiyadah]. The committee is composed of four Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem and three Palestinians from outside the occupied territories who will coordinate with the U.S. side and follow up the bilateral contacts related to talks with the Israeli side.

JNA has also learned that a meeting between this guidance committee and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will be held today.

From Jerusalem the committee includes Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Zahirah Kamal, and Sari Nusaybah. From outside the occupied territories the committee includes Kamil Mansur, Anis al- Qasim, and Rashid al-Khalidi.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Interviewed

JN0111184591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir in Madrid by Kassab Samawi; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Jabir] I still say that I have cautious optimism despite the very hard-line speech by the Israeli prime minister. I believe that he has put forward the highest ceiling of Israeli demands, which absolutely refuses to discuss the exchange of land for peace. I do not believe that this is the final opinion, however, since the Americans, the USSR, and the EC have a say in this issue. I believe that they will push for the right direction.

[Samawi] What sort of peace will the Arabs accept?

[Abu-Jabir] A comprehensive, lasting, and honorable peace based on justice; a peace that we and future generations can live with; a peace that is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—that is, the exchange of land for peace and the affirmation of the return of Arab Jerusalem to its rightful owners; a peace that emphasizes the Palestinian people's right to exercise self- determination; full withdrawal; and a halt to settlements. This is the required peace and the one for which we will strive.

[Samawi] What step do you expect in the next phase?

[Abu-Jabir] The direct step now, as you know, is that Jordan has agreed to attend bilateral talks on Sunday, 3 November. After that, we will see how things develop.

Israelis Comment on 1 Nov Proceedings

Netanyahu on Syria, Israeli Teams

TA0111184291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Madrid on 1 November—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Who in the Arab world is causing the problem regarding the bilateral talks?

[Netanyahu] First, you see that the Arab world has not accepted our invitation to talks in the region. Even for these preliminary talks, we do not know whether we will meet three Arab delegations here. We will wait and see on this. Somebody does create a problem; there are problems in general within the Arab delegations, but it is primarily Syria that is firmly opposed to a peace treaty and bilateral talks.

[Ganor] If the Syrians do not turn up for the bilateral talks Sunday, what will Israel do?

[Netanyahu] As far as we are concerned, we will be able to make progress with the others, if they agree. Still, after our repeated attempts to promote this process, the process moved only when Syria accepted the invitation for bilateral talks without preconditions. There may be second thoughts in Syria. I very much hope this is not the case, but we will very soon find out.

[Ganor] Does Israel have a red line in case the Arab countries do not turn up for a continuation of the talks in the region?

[Netanyahu] I very much hope this will not happen. It is difficult for me to believe that after such enormous effort, after such great hope, that the entire Arab world will simply go home. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Mr. Netanyahu, could you resolve some of the mystery that envelops the U.S. efforts to convince the Syrians?

[Netanyahu] Well, it is no secret that we held talks with the Americans during the last part of the conference. It is no secret either that the Americans held very intensive talks with the Syrians. I cannot yet tell you the result of the talks. We will see Sunday. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Mr. Netanyahu, as the head of the Israeli delegation in Madrid now, do you have all the powers needed to make a decision?

[netanyahu] We received a clear picture of what Israeli policy is. It is the prime minister who made this picture clear, of course, and all the team members here know it, express it, and act to achieve it in the course of the talks. I hope that these talks will yield positive results.

[Ganor] Allow me to end this interview with a question that concerns the Foreign Ministry. What is your feeling about the decision to return the senior officials to Jerusalem now?

[Netanyahu] I will not address those matters. Let me only say that the team that worked here, all the Foreign Ministry officials, did an extraordinary job and worked as a very good team. I congratulate both those who returned and those who remained.

[Ganor] Does their return to Israel harm the Israeli effort?

[Netanyahu] The Israeli effort is in very good shape.

On Venue for Talks

TA0111192791

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1535 GMT on 1 November begins a live broadcast in progress of Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's news conference at the news center adjacent to the Middle East peace conference site in Madrid. Netanyahu speaks in English.

Referring to the current controversy over the venue of the bilateral talks, Netanyahu says: "It is not possible to say that all of the negotiations that we have had in the region were successful, but it is definitely possible to say that all of the successful negotiations were held in the region, all of them. And there is a reason for that, that relates not to recent history but to this morning's performance." Multilateral gatherings of this kind, in the presence of so many cameras, "plus the presence of the Europeans and the Americans" may be "conducive to certain things, but not to direct negotiations." He goes on to say that "the theater of the absurd, as it was today, the kind of fantastic distortions of facts leveled at us by some of the Arab delegations, especially Syria, are a colosseum where Israel is to be thrown to the lions." That is why Israel suggests that "the Arab leaders and the Arab delegations accept our invitation. We are prepared to discuss any venue," but so far, none of the Arab delegations have responded. He notes that Israel expects to see "three bilateral negotiating teams." He then names the heads of the Israeli teams that will negotiate with the respective Arab delegations: Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, with the Syrians; Salay Meridor, the defense minister's aide, with the Lebanese; and Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Asked whether this controversy might jeopardize the continuation of the talks, the deputy foreign minister says: "I don't think we are thinking in this kind of terms. We're thinking on how to best proceed. From our point of view, we have to ask the question that I asked here, I think two days ago—maybe some of you were here when I asked it. I asked: Why not? Why not in the region?" He goes on to say that this has proved to be a good and effective way of making peace in the Middle East, and the fact that the Arabs refuse to agree gives rise to many questions.

Netanyahu is asked why Israel should not make a goodwill gesture and release thousands of Arab political prisoners and Israelis who are in prison because of their refusal to serve in the West Bank. He replies that Israel "doesn't keep political prisoners." Israel abides by international criteria and has "the most respected judiciary." Everybody in Israel, left or right, subscribes to the importance of an independent and impartial judiciary, and people are "not jailed for political views" but only if they throw bombs or commit other crimes. Israel is a law-abiding country, he says, and the law is applied equally to all.

Asked again why Israel should break off the talks over a controversy such as their venue, Netanyahu says this question should be addressed to the Syrians, the Palestinians, and the Lebanese. "Why is it that the Arabs, who break the tradition of half a century of peace-making, are not asked why they break the precedent?" Reiterating the importance of holding the talks in the area, he asserts: "We are not interested in negotiating with the airways and, as much as I respect the media, frankly, we are not interested in negotiating with CNN or CBS."

Asked what sort of climate has been created for the business of peace-making, assuming that the bilateral talks go ahead, the deputy minister says it was "pretty good" two days ago when Presidents Bush and Gorbachev delivered their speeches, but it was slightly hurt by today's deluge of recrimination and anti-Israeli vituperations.

Netanyahu is asked why Israel does not spell out its view of the final settlement of the conflict, as the various Arab delegations did in the conference. The same correspondent asks him: Is the question of the venue "a red line" or will Israel back away from it? Netanyahu replies that according to the solution proposed by the Arab countries, the final settlement would spell "the final solution" of the Jewish state. He remarks that as the prime minister made clear in his speech, the conflict between Israel and the Arabs "is essentially not territorial but existential, and I understood that this was rejected by the Syrian delegate." We would like to talk to partners who recognize our right to exist; "we'd like to get the nonnegotiable fact of Israel's existence behind us," he says. The reason why we have a problem of borders is because the Arabs refuse to recognize Israel and, "unfortunately, these tendencies were made evident in the speeches that we heard." As for Israel's position on the final settlement, Netanyahu says: "We'll negotiate that when we get to the negotiations."

Asked what sort of concessions Israel is prepared to make to bring the Arabs to the negotiations, Netanyahu says: "I don't see why this requires concessions. We've come here with many, many concessions; we're constantly asked to make concessions." He says the time has come to ask the Arabs whether they are prepared to talk peace. Once again Netanyahu notes that the Israeli-Syrian talks on a disengagement of forces in 1974 were held on the border between the two countries, and they were successful.

Asked to react to Syria's allegations that Israel is a terror state, the deputy foreign minister counters by referring his audience to the State Department's terrorism report for 1990, where Syria is mentioned as giving refuge to terrorists of various nationalities and goes on to cite numerous terrorist incidents in which Syria was implicated.

Responds to Arab Journalist's Query

LD0111175591 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Report by Javier Arenas]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The steps to take in the dialogue for peace are the focus of the statements which are coming out in succession throughout this afternoon. The Israeli spokesman, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, is here in the conference's press center. We will listen to the last question and thus the last reply.

[Begin recording] [Unidentifed correspondent in Arabic fading into Spanish translation] You are an important

Israeli politician and your opinion is important. We are hoping that you will see fit to listen to what I am going to say. There are many people who are still under occupation. How can the world believe that you are working sincerely for peace while you are still refusing to give an opportunity to Palestinians here to participate in peace? Why are you continuing with your policy of illegal occupation, viewed internationally as illegitimate, which will continue to be an obstacle to this conference?

[Netanyahu in English with superimposed Spanish voiceover] I said that we are ready to negotiate peace with any Arab country, with any Palestinian, if the fact of our existence is accepted. This is simply not negotiable, and the PLO continues to hold onto the notion that somehow we will disappear or that they will make us disappear. When you speak of occupied territories—as I told you, the question of the territories, the military government in the territories is something we will negotiate once we get to negotiations. I would listen to your plaintive cries a lot more carefully if I heard a similar cry about the fate of the Palestinians who have been driven out of Kuwait, for example, driven out of Kuwait at the present time. [end recording]

On Baker Speech, Contacts With Arabs

TA0111124291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1211 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Eldar Beck at Madrid's Husa Princesa Hotel—live]

[Text] [Beck] Mr. Netanyahu, what is your reaction to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's concluding address?

[Netanyahu] I think this speech reflected known positions, a considerable portion of which we share. I do not expect complete agreement on everything, but what is important is this: We made a suggestion in the spirit of the rebuttal address, according to which direct negotiations will be launched at once. As we had agreed in advance, we accepted the suggestion of the conference cosponsors—the United States and the USSR—to hold the initial encounter in Madrid, in order to reach agreement on how things are to continue. After what happened here, we understand today that the continuation cannot take place in public, in full view of cameras, with an international—including a pan-Arab—gathering, all of which creates alienation and polarization, rather than rapprochement.

For that reason, the proposal, which we are reiterating to the Arab delegations with whom we are to meet in Madrid soon—we hope to meet with all of them—is that they accept the very simple, direct, and clear proposal made by Prime Minister Shamir that the talks be held in our region. In our experience since the establishment of the State of Israel, such talks are guaranteed to succeed. It is no coincidence that the United Nations has never been successful in producing an Israeli-Arab peace treaty. Direct talks held in the region have been successful, and we hope they will be this time, too. We hope the Arabs will accept our proposal. We intend to remain here for one convening, one encounter, one meeting after which, I hope, the Arab delegations will return to Israel on an agreed date for bilateral negotiations. We, on our part, will come to them.

Ben-Aharon on Bilateral Talks, Syria

TA0111160591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1509 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shalom Qital and Arye Golan in Madrid—live]

[Text] [Qital] How does Amsterdam strike you as a possible venue for the bilateral talks?

[Ben-Aharon] I have not heard anything about it. It must be one of the many rumors circulating here in Madrid. Because the conference ended in uncertainty and there are lots of questions about the continuation, there are many rumors going around. In reality, the Americans unequivocally decided that meetings will he held Sunday morning in Madrid between Israeli teams and teams from the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations.

[Golan] Syria may very well not show up on Sunday.

[Ben-Aharon] The Americans apparently wanted to confront all the sides with a fait accompli and start the ball rolling. We immediately accepted, of course, having made clear to them and to everyone that, as far as we are concerned, this meeting is designed to discuss and decide on the date and venue—in our region—for the direct negotiations.

[Qital] If the Syrians do not show up, will it undermine the continuation of the negotiations with the others?

[Ben-Aharon] That depends on the others. We will gladly hold negotiations and move forward with any Arab delegation that shows up and expresses its willingness to meet us in our region. If the talks are held in our region, there will be no problem deciding on the exact date, city, and location. We would like to alternate the site of the talks with Syria, as we did during the talks with Lebanon in 1983. The same applies to Jordan and Lebanon.

[Golan] Sir, what are the plans of the Israeli team if the Syrians do not show up for the first bilateral session on Sunday?

[Ben-Aharon] The problem stems from the very fact that we have just now emerged from an international conference, this regional gathering, attended by several Arab delegations. This, in itself, represents a serious obstacle. I have just seen on CNN that the Arab delegations will meet tonight to coordinate their position. This is happening because of the Syrians, who have adopted a rigid position and who will apparently intimidate the other

delegations. We will apparently be facing a unanimous Arab position, with all the sides going along with the lowest common denominator. This is the reason we have always opposed an international conference. If one meets with each Arab party separately, there is a chance—though not always a big one—that one might break the ice.

Did you hear Secretary of State Baker's remarks that it would be unforgivable, and that the United States would not understand it, if one of the parties did not show up for the talks because of problem with the venue?

[Ben-Aharon] We heard that. This is not a technical problem, and putting it in such a context—with all due respect to the secretary of state—does not exactly reflect the whole picture. As Israelis and as peace-seekers we ask: Why do the Arab countries, primarily Syria, refuse to meet us on their soil or allow a Syrian representative to come to Israel?

[Qital] How would you describe the talks scheduled for Sunday, regardless of whether the Syrians show up? Will they constitute the beginning of the bilateral talks or will they just represent a phase of clarifications prior to the talks?

[Ben-Aharon] I would definitely describe them as the beginning, because the very fact that we and they will be meeting without the presence of any other party is significant—albeit not extremely so, owing to the fact that the meeting will be taking place far away from the region in question. If they agree to meet, however, they will hopefully agree to go on meeting with us to decide and plan future arrangements.

[Qital] Is it Israel's position that we will not continue the talks in Madrid after Sunday?

[Ben-Aharon] The Israeli delegation will hold one meeting with the Arab delegations for as long as necessary, even if it takes hours, to discuss the venue and the date of the bilateral talks. In any event, on Monday our delegation will pack its bags and return to Israel. We have informed the U.S. representatives that by the time of our departure we can and must settle the problem of deciding on the venue and the date, if we have partners who agree to an arrangement acceptable to both sides.

[Golan] Sir, in addition to the struggle for peace, there seems to be an internal showdown between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry. The latter, or the minister rather, ordered staffers to leave Madrid today and return to Israel aboard the prime minister's plane. Does this affect the quality and performance of the Israeli delegation? Does it affect your work? Will you be short-staffed when the negotiations start next week? What is the significance of this move?

[Ben-Aharon] Such an instruction was indeed given, which is regrettable. I do not think it will have an effect, because we have here representatives of the defense establishment, the Israeli Army, and the Prime Minister's Office. Not all Foreign Ministry staffers have gone back. Those in charge of public relations, communications, and logistics have stayed here. I think we have enough personnel to handle the meeting with the Arab delegations on Sunday.

[Qital] We heard a story from Uri Oren, the foreign minister's assistant, to the effect that you did not want to head the delegation that will conduct negotiations with the Syrians. Is that true?

[Ben-Aharon] There were discussions between the prime minister and foreign minister on the distribution of duties, and what the prime minister determined was not acceptable to the foreign minister. There were later attempts to meet the foreign minister halfway, and matters finally developed the way they are.

[Qital] You have been a senior official for years, and you started out in the Foreign Ministry. How do you explain such a conflict, which I have difficulty defining—a conflict over prestige perhaps—at a time when we are going through one of the most fateful and sensitive processes in the history of the State of Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] I cannot understand it, and please do not ask me for explanations.

[Qital] Let us return to the major issues. What is your reaction to the Syrian foreign minister's remarks?

[Ben-Aharon] We naturally knew Syria's position—always tough, dogmatic, and radical—but from what we heard from the U.S. secretary of state and his assistants during the seven or eight rounds of talks he held in the region, we had reason to believe that Syria realized the change in the world and had opened up to the United States somewhat—that it had agreed to the U.S. plan and framework, which means the beginning of something with the State of Israel. We were surprised, therefore, when we heard the Syrian foreign minister's first speech. We were in for an even worse surprise when we heard him today, reacting to the remarks by our prime minister. The prime minister's remarks did not contain an attack that could be likened to that which Syria's al-Shar' saw fit to deliver today. The Israeli delegation was unhappy—and that is an understatement—at the fact that the Soviet chairman did not interrupt the Syrian foreign minister, who greatly exceeded the time allotted him. We signaled to him and pointed to the watch. I even lifted my earphones and hit the empty chair of the prime minister to call attention to the fact that we were neither prepared to put up with allowing him to carry on with his speech for an unlimited time, nor with the unprecedented insolence of this Syrian minister who saw fit to personally slander the Israeli prime minister and to use the worst possible language.

[Golan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, beyond that anti-Semitism, which naturally infuriates every Jew, beyond that attack on the prime minister, al-Shar' announced at a news conference here a short while ago that Syria is prepared

for security arrangements with Israel on the Golan Heights. Does that sound like something new?

[Ben-Aharon] No, they have always stated that in exchange for our returning the Golan they would agree to all sorts of security arrangements, provided they are the same on both sides of the border. That has always been the Syrian stance. What Israel demands of us, so they say, in the way of demilitarization or the positioning of some sort of forces, should be done on the Israeli side too. They live in a world of imagination sometimes, it seems. They do not know where they live if they think Israel will agree to anything similar to what they offer.

[Golan] As the person who will sit opposite the Syrian negotiating team in the direct, bilateral talks, you do not see an opening for the start of a real discussion on some arrangements that will lead to peace with Syria, do you?

[Ben-Aharon] Since we are committed to direct negotiations, we will come to the meeting on Sunday and see if the Syrian comes. We have doubts about whether he will come at all, and even greater doubts about whether he will agree to sit down with us alone in order to begin some sort of a dialogue. Still, we will put him to the test. If he does not want to, let us hope there will be other delegations that will agree to hold a dialogue with us.

[Qital] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, it is almost Sabbath here in Madrid, so let us bid you a peaceful Sabbath.

[Ben-Aharon] Have a peaceful and blessed Sabbath.

Shoval: Nothing To Fear in Baker Speech

TA0111133391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1220 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to the United States, by Rafi Reshef and Eldad Beck at the Husa Princesa Hotel in Madrid—live]

[Text] [Beck] Is the Israeli delegation going to leave next Monday [4 November] if the Arabs are not willing to hold talks in the capitals of the region?

[Shoval] You are making it sound too dramatic. An initial and single meeting has been scheduled in Madrid. The meeting can take place on Saturday or Sunday; it is immaterial. In the meeting—so we and the cosponsors hope—an agreement will be made between the parties; or, rather, the Arabs will accept the very reasonable Israeli suggestion that if we are to talk regional peace, we should meet in the region. If there is no agreement on this, the chances for the success of the peace process are naturally fewer than we had expected. But why should we consider the negative option? Let us hope that an agreement will be reached.

[Reshef] Mr. Shoval, allow me to put things in order: The way we understood it, the U.S. secretary of state said that until an acceptable formula is found, the parties will continue discussions in Madrid. Am I wrong?

[Shoval] There will be only one meeting in Madrid.

[Reshef] Meaning that this is all that he said. He did not say that the talks must continue in Madrid until another venue is found?

[Shoval] No, of course not.

[Reshef] What happened this morning? Where did the secretary of state fail in his attempt to find an agreed venue?

[Shoval] I do not know. The contacts, to the best of our knowledge, were only held with the Syrian foreign minister, and I was not privy to the talks. I can imagine that the Americans did their best—and not only them; the Soviets, too—to pressure the Syrian representative not to be an obstacle to this process. I do not know what the results were.

[Reshef] According to the original plan, what is the purpose of this single session in Madrid, whenever it is held?

[Shoval] I believe that the agenda has to be the continuation of the meetings, mainly in terms of coordinating timetables, working procedures, and so on.

[Reshef] Will this discussion determine the location of the future discussions?

[Shoval] Yes, this is the intention, at least.

[Reshef] It stands to reason that if Baker failed, it will not be so easy to bridge the gaps in a face-to-face meeting.

[Shoval] Well, OK. Look, if we cannot agree on such an issue in the bilateral talks, what are the odds of us agreeing in the discussions on more important issues in the future? We hope that after Israel has agreed to compromise and hold one session in Madrid—after all, we originally wanted the bilateral talks to start immediately in the region—the other side will compromise as well.

[Reshef] Were you not upset by the U.S. secretary's speech, which was very patronizing, unequivocal, and resolute?

[Shoval] No, because I know the U.S. stand on this issue. In the long run, the Americans also know that the future of the talks and the process depends on the parties and nobody else, as Baker said.

[Reshef] Yes, but the spirit was: It is up to you; you must try harder; we are honest brokers despite the fact that we have our own opinions, and we will express them, too, and when misunderstandings arise, we will try to intervene. Do you find nothing to fear in this determination?

[Shoval] No. If Israel knows exactly what its goals and purposes are, it will be able to insist on them, and despite our differences with the Americans—which I would not like to dismiss—they can be convinced. I do not fear that

the United States will exert brutal pressure on us, which might make Israel give in on issues that are vital to its existence.

[Reshef] Can you understand or evaluate where James Baker failed in his attempt to find an agreed venue?

[Shoval] I do not know exactly, but I am convinced that the Syrian remarks and behavior certainly did not please the Americans, just as it did not please the USSR and was not to the liking of some of the Arabs. It did not make things easy for him.

[Reshef] Thank you.

Lebanese Army Officers Complete Delegation

NC0111125591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to the Madrid conference is now complete with the arrival of two Lebanese Army officers. They are Lieutenant Colonel Mahir al-Tufayli and Captain Tawfiq Mahran.

The chairman of the Lebanese delegation will meet today with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin.

Lebanon Refuses To 'Pay the Price' for Peace

PM0111162391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Buwayz Says: Preparatory Meeting for Bilateral Negotiations Saturday Evening"]

[Excerpts] Madrid, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—"Lebanon's withdrawal from the negotiations is possible... and negotiations will not be continued at Lebanon's expense." This is what Faris Buwayz, Lebanese foreign minister and head of the Lebanese delegation, said in a dialogue meeting which the minister held the night before last with a number of Lebanese reporters. SAWT AL-KUWAYT asked him the following question: The Americans say that Secretary James Baker is a first-class duck hunter, and others say that he pushed Lebanon to the negotiating table because it is a wounded duck. As a result, in order to appease some parties, Lebanon could pay the price for a settlement at some stage... The minister, interrupting, said: "We have nothing at all to indicate that we could reach a settlement of that kind. At any rate, I have emphasized before that we have a clear resolution which is different from all the other resolutions and nonnegotiable, namely Resolution 425. And certainly we will reject any solution reached at Lebanon's expense."

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] So can you withdraw from the negotiations?

[Buwayz] Of course, if there is any price imposed at Lebanon's expense, we will not continue the negotiations.

Minister Buwayz emphasized—during the dialogue with him at the hotel at which the Lebanese delegation is staying amid security that could even be tighter than that given to other delegations—that the Americans had informed him that the bilateral negotiations would begin Saturday evening. He also said that that the resistance in the South will continue until Israel withdraws. He added that until now there have been no contacts with the Israelis, saying that the contacts that have taken place were conducted through the U.S or Soviet sides, or via other parties participating in the conference. [passage omitted]

The head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace conference said: Lebanon is concerned with two questions: The first concerns it and the second concerns the Arab world. With regard to the question which concerns it, all that we agreed to discuss is ways of implementing Resolution 425, because it specifies the mechanism for its own implementation.

Minister Buwayz added: In the letter of assurances the United States acknowledges and admits that the implementation of Resolution 425 is separate from that conference and from Resolutions 242 and 338. Buwayz expressed his fear that the conference's failure, God forbid, would affect Resolution 425—which we reject completely. [passage omitted]

The head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace conference emphasized that the conference has no power to impose on any state something it rejects. He said: If it is agreed to move the negotiations from Madrid, we want a state that is similar in characteristics. But we will certainly refuse to move the negotiations to the borders, to the occupied South. He stressed that it is out of the question for the 17 May agreement to be subject to negotiation. And Lebanon will guarantee comprehensive security in the South only in the event of Israel's withdrawal from it. This is what the president of the Lebanese republic has emphasized. But for us to be requested to stop resistance operations in the South before the withdrawal is implemented is unacceptable.

He pointed out that the subject of water in the region "cannot be discussed before progress is made in bilateral negotiations." And he said that there is no agenda for these talks.

Conferrees Hold Contacts 2 November

Musa Meets al-Shar'

NC0211211591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 2 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting tonight with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

MENA has learned that the delegations participating in the Madrid conference that are not taking part in the bilateral talks will follow up the situation closely during (?the next phase).

Minister Musa is expected to leave Madrid tomorrow for Cairo following the start of face-to-face negotiations.

Bilateral negotiations are expected to be resumed [as received] at 1000 tomorrow, Madrid time. The committees will decide on the date and venue for the resumption of their work.

Buwayz on Israeli Raids

NC0211173391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] In Madrid, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that Lebanon's acceptance of the invitation to the peace conference was based on several principles, including technical consideration based on a forceful U.S.-Soviet presence. Buwayz said: We have some conditions, including the need for a high-level U.S. and Soviet presence at the bilateral talks.

Discussing developments in the south, Buwayz said that more than 10 towns have been attacked by Israeli planes; he added that the southern coast is being subjected to something similar to a naval blockade. Buwayz said that he has held several contacts and has called on the United States to intervene and to take a stand on current events in the south.

The Lebanese foreign minister added that he has sent a denunciatory letter to the UN Security Council. The Israelis are trying to improve their hand on the eve of the bilateral negotiations, he noted, adding that he is waiting for a clear U.S. response on the situation. Buwayz said he expects developments in the south to hurt the peace conference.

Minister Buwayz added that Israel has proposed moving the venue of the negotiations to the Middle East countries but, he said, Lebanon has rejected this proposal.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Expected

LD0211103491 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's right-hand man, is expected to arrive in our country . Abu-Sharif is coming to Spain to supervise the diplomatic activity of his delegation.

The PLO's Executive Committee is to meet soon to map out the strategy to follow at the negotiations.

Approach to Syrian-Israeli Talks Reported

Syria Refuses To Attend

JN0311102091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] In Madrid, the first round of bilateral negotiations between the Israeli delegation and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under Kamil Abu-Jabir and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi began a short while ago. As the other Israeli delegation entrusted with negotiations with Syria was heading for the venue of the meeting, it was informed by the United States that the Syrian delegation will not attend.

It has been learned from diplomatic Arab sources that Syria is demanding that the bilateral negotiations beteeen Israel and Arab parties be held in one location, not in three separate locations with each Arab delegation. It has also been learned that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian. Nothing has surfaced about the results of the meeting.

As for the Lebanese delegation, it was still at the hotel at 1030, Madrid time, although the bilateral negotiations session was scheduled to begin at 1000.

To Discuss 'Substantive' Issues Only

JN0311103291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] A spokesman of the Syrian delegation to the Madrid peace conference has announced the following:

The Syrian delegation came to Madrid to participate in the peace conference and the bilateral talks emanating from it to reach a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

After its arrival in Madrid, the Syrian delegation was surprised to find that Israel was demanding the transfer of the bilateral talks venue to the region and insisting on confining discussions to this issue to the exclusion of all others, something which is unacceptable to the Syrian side.

Since the Syrian delegation came to Madrid authorized to participate in the conference and the bilateral talks emanating from it on substantive issues of peace, in the Madrid talks it will concentrate only on these issues.

Al-Asad's 'Strong Displeasure'

JN0311123891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1214 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Mustafa Bakri report from Cairo]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has voiced his strong displeasure with the Israeli delegation's position and its insistence on rejecting the peace proposals and international appeals. In their recent telephone conversation, al-Asad asked Mubarak to convey to the United States and Israel that Syria would reconsider its position on the peace process if the Israelis insisted on following the same approach in the second and third phases of the negotiations.

Informed Egyptian sources told our radio that al-Asad expressed satisfaction with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's speech at the conference.

Al-Asad revealed to Mubarak the substance of a secret agreement between Shamir and Sharon by which Shamir would participate in the negotiations while Sharon would assume the responsibility of implementing all the large-scale settlement plans in the occupied territories and the Golan throughout the phases of the negotiations. Shamir would also implement a major plan to expel the original Arab inhabitants from their land. Al-Asad noted that implementation of the Israeli plan actually began one day before the negotiations.

Al-Asad asked Mubarak to inform the United States and the Soviet Union as well as the heads of the European Troika and the UN delegations at the Madrid conference that agreement should be reached on an international interpretation of Resolution 242 in order to adopt this interpretation in case an Arab-Israeli dispute over it arises during the talks.

The source noted that President Mubarak expressed his solidarity with the Syrian position.

Gorbachev Phone Call Broke 'Deadlock'

LD0411004491 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had to speak on the phone last night with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to break the deadlock on the meeting between the Israelis and Syrians. This is what the deputy Soviet foreign minister said a few minutes ago in a press conference was attended by our colleague, Angel Garcia:

[Garcia] The USSR is satisfied with the progress in the conference negotiations which, according to that country, have historic significance, not only for the Middle East but for the whole world. Deputy Foreign Minster Aleksandr Belonogov read a statement in Spanish, in deference to and recognition of the country where the conference was held.

According to Belonogov, 3 November will go down in history, because the foundations have been laid for a historic success:

[Begin Belonogov recording] The Soviet Union, as the co- initiator and cosponsor of the Madrid conference, cannot but express feelings of great and sincere satisfaction on this occasion. We have become witnesses of the beginning of direct bilateral negotiations. The first lines have just been written in the chapter that will constitute the history of these negotiations. This will probably be a long chapter, without an easy story line. There could even be unexpected turns, but it will have—and I am firmly convinced of this—an obligatory happy ending. [end recording]

[Garcia] He also expressed recognition for the other cosponsor, the United States, for its insistence and perseverance, especially that of Secretary of State Baker. The conference did not lack drama, as reflected today. Mikhail Gorbachev also had talks last night with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, which, Belonogov said, allowed the deadlock to be broken. The ice has been broken and this is the main thing. Belonogov expressed his satisfaction with the rapid reply of the Syrian delegation. Now, the work of the cosponsors will continue on the path taken.

Syrians Achieve Single Venue Demand

JN0311212591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2104 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Sources with the Syrian delegation today expressed full satisfaction with achieving the Syrian demand calling for holding the second phase of talks in one place for all Arab delegations and in Madrid only. The Syrian delegation stuck to its position since Israel has begun to exert futile efforts to disperse the Arab delegations and distribute them in various places in order to isolate the Arab delegations and prevent contacts and coordination among them.

The Syrian delegation achieved what it demanded. The single venue was decided in spite of the efforts made by Israel to distort the Syrian position on the peace process. The Israeli delegation this morning purposely went to a venue that Syria had previously rejected. But the Israeli delegation found no one there.

Arab and foreign media in Madrid expressed admiration for the dynamism of the Syrian position which achieved its demands calmly and wisely. Indeed, the Arab delegations held the talks in the Parcen Palace, the venue approved by the Syrian delegation.

Syria, Israel Hold Bilateral Talks 3 Nov

'No Progress'; Contacts To Continue

TA0411030191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0235 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Eldad Beck from the Justice Ministry building in Madrid—live]

[Text] The Syrian delegation has already left the meeting hall. We spoke with Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation. He in fact came out with firm remarks against the Israeli delegation. He said that the Israeli delegation came here to waste time, to achieve things without giving anything in return. He said the Israeli delegation repeated the same remarks over and over again, without showing any willingness to recognize the principles on which the negotiations are slated to be based—namely, UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate the return of territories.

The Syrian ambassador, who heads the Syrian delegation, said that his country, for its part, made it clear to the Israelis that it will be willing to apply all the conclusions derived from these two resolutions, but the Israelis kept raising issues that do not concern the negotiations at all. He said that the Syrians could no longer listen to these remarks. He expressed regret that the meeting ended the way it did, but still made it clear that the

Syrians now intend to appeal to both the United States and the Soviet Union to pressure Israel into softening its position. In addition, he said, we intend to keep up the contacts with the Israelis. We very much hope that the position they presented in today's meeting was only an opening position, and that at later stages of the negotiations Israel will change its position. Let me play for you a short excerpt of the remarks made by the Syrian representative.

[Begin al-'Allaf recording, in English] Well, I am sorry to tell you that after nearly five hours, four hours and a half to be correct, of continuous discussion, no progress whatsoever was achieved with the Israeli delegation, because of its constant refusal to discuss any relevant issue, any issue emanating from the basis of the bilateral talks. [end recording]

As said, despite the very strong tone by the Syrian representative, in reply to a question I posed to him—whether there was a point in continuing to talk with the Israelis now—he clearly said: We intend to keep up the contacts. We will be in touch with the presidents who sponsored the entire process, in an attempt to promote matters in a fashion compatible with the basis on which the negotiations should proceed.

Damascus Radio Reports Talks

JN0411061291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Madrid—The Arab delegations participating in the peace conference concluded in Madrid yesterday the first round of the second stage of the peace conference to achieve a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Syrian delegation to the bilateral talks was headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf. The talks between the Arab delegations and the Israeli side were held in the Parcen Palace where all Arab delegations held negotiations with the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

Head of Syrian Team Dissatisfied

JN0411062391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The first round of bilateral talks between the Israeli and Syrian delegations began late last night and concluded at dawn today.

Head of the Syrian delegation Muwaffaq al-'Allaf expressed dissatisfaction with the results of the discussions. He said, however, that Damascus has not lost hope of achieving progress during negotiations. He pointed out that the Israelis did not talk about exchanging land for peace, an issue that is at the heart of the UN resolutions, and on whose basis the current negotiations are being held. He added that the Israelis tried to avoid speaking about withdrawal from the occupied territories, and wanted to score points without giving anything in return.

Concluding his statement, the head of the Syrian delegation said: We will continue with the talks with the help of the cosponsors of the conference, the United States and the USSR, in the hope of reaching an agreement.

Head of the Israeli delegation Yosi Ben-Aharon said that the initial talks with the Syrian delegation, which lasted five hours, were not fruitful. He added: We did not agree on anything. However, he said: The two delegations hope to resume these talks later.

Sees Israeli 'Intransigence'

JN0411064291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid—The first round of the Syrian-Israeli bilateral talks ended at 0300 today. In a statement to journalists, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian side to the talks, said:

The Syrian side concentrated, during the talks, on the need for implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. It also reiterated Syria's desire that Madrid be the venue to continue the talks.

Al-'Allaf added: We felt intransigence on the part of the Israeli side and attempts to waste time and to discuss nonsubstantial matters that are far from the objectives of the Madrid peace conference.

Al-'Allaf said: During the talks, we asserted that peace cannot be achieved in the region without Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, without Israel's acceptance of the UN resolutions, without its recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and without stopping its violations of international law.

Ben-Aharon on Talks With Syria

TA0411024491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0213 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Eldad Beck from the Justice Ministry building in Madrid—live]

[Text] [Beck] The Israeli delegation members are already in the lobby. They are now making their way out and approaching the journalists, who are waiting for their remarks. Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli delegation, will make a comment or two in English first.

Ben-Aharon says that the Israelis and Syrians held a meeting that lasted about five hours. The very fact that the Syrians agreed to hold a discussion is a sign that our determination for direct talks was successful. We had a long meeting, Ben-Aharon said, adding that it was very useful. We raised many issues regarding peace with Syria, and the Syrians answered in the negative to almost all the issues we raised. We asked the Syrians whether they are prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel, and

they said no. We asked them whether they are prepared to participate in multilateral talks, and the answer again was negative. Are they prepared to end the acts of violence from Syrian territory in the course of negotiations? The Syrians said no again. They repeatedly asked us when we will withdraw from occupied lands. We said we would discuss all issues, but they have to form some avenues of contact with us. We asked the Syrians whether they are willing to start negotiations in the region, and their answer was again no. They want to stay in Madrid only. We hope that despite the negative attitude of the Syrians, we will still be able to resume contacts with them somehow.

One of the correspondents here asked Ben-Aharon if a date was set for continued contacts. No, Ben-Aharon answered. They do not want to come for another meeting.

Mr. Ben-Aharon, a question from the IDF Radio please: Will there be another contact between you and the Syrians, and what can you tell us about today's meeting?

[Ben-Aharon] The meeting with the Syrians was a little frustrating. It is the first bilateral meeting indeed, which in itself is an event, but we received a negative answer from them to all the subjects we raised. We said: Let us begin direct communication so we can determine the continuation of the dialogue, and the response was negative. We said: Let us determine, let us undertake to have ongoing negotiations, and their response was again negative. We said: Let us create an atmosphere conducive to ending violence and halting hostilities, at least for the duration of the negotiations, and the response was again negative. We asked them why they refused to come to the multilateral talks, which also concern peace, and their answer was: No; we first need to handle the withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In other words, they gave negative answers to a series of issues we raised, and they only wanted that we undertake to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Thank you.

[Beck] Will there be another contact with the Syrians?

[Ben-Aharon] No, not for the time being.

[Beck] This was Ben-Aharon's answer then. So, this was not a very successful meeting, according to what we heard from the director general of the Prime Minister's Office. They seem to have said very little, beyond a repeated demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories. Unlike the meetings with the Jordanians and the Lebanese, there is no agreement between Israel and Syria to resume contacts, but Israel still hopes that contacts will resume. In sum, the atmosphere in the talk was not constructive. I assume the Syrians will also make a statement when they leave the meeting hall, but I cannot say that for sure.

Ben-Aharon on Atmospherics

TA0411171291 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Yosi Ronen in Madrid on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr. Ben-Aharon, last night you conferred for over four hours with the Syrian delegation. What were their main demands in the meeting?

[Ben-Aharon] There was one demand that they kept repeating like a broken record, that we are committed to implementing Resolution 242, and first of all the clause dealing with the withdrawal from territories. It was obvious he was acting under strict instructions not to move one iota from that demand. It therefore cropped up on any issue we raised on future relations between Israel and Syria.

[Ronen] When you say he, to whom are you referring?

[Ben-Aharon] To Syria's former ambassador to Austria [Muwaffaq al-'Allaf], who headed the delegation.

[Ronen] He repeated the demand all the time, and what did the Israeli delegation do?

[Ben-Aharon] We tried to develop a conversation to discuss substance. For instance, we sort of praised the fact that we are meeting for direct talks for the first time. That is something, after all. We said that we hope it indicates a new approach by Syria and that from now on we will meet together in direct bilateral talks to discuss the issues dividing us in order to reach an agreement. First we suggested setting up an axis for direct contact. He said: It is irrelevant and unnecessary since there is an international conference in Madrid and we will continue it as long as possible; I have patience. I replied that I also have patience, but at some stage we have to return home and set up some sort of contact. He did not want to touch on it. From that moment on he gave me the right of speech and he kept repeating the same record about 242 and withdrawal. I raised issues, which as I said, are matters of substance on building a framework for mutual trust, understanding, and a basis for peace.

[Ronen] Did the Golan Heights issue come up?

[Ben-Aharon] When he talked about withdrawal from territories he usually focused on Syrian territories. At one stage he explained that in the other sectors, such as the West Bank—as he called it—there are other elements negotiating with us; therefore, he is focusing on the Golan Heights.

[Ronen] In other words, according to him there is no tie between progress in the talks on the Golan Heights and those on Judaea and Samaria.

[Ben-Aharon] No, he let us understand that from his viewpoint the conflict would end if Israel withdraws

from all the territories but that he was interested in the Golan Heights issue within this framework.

[Ronen] Did the multilateral talks come up in the discussion?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, it was one of the issues I raised. I told him: You want us to discuss implementing Resolution 242. I say everything in good time; we must first fix several basic rules and create some sort of infrastructure for understanding. Then I told him: Do you recognize the State of Israel's legitimacy, for instance? Not diplomatic recognition but legitimacy. In the past, you let us understand by remarks made by Syrian leaders that Israel does not exist or should not exist, that it is part of Syria, and so forth. Are you prepared to recognize our legitimacy? You are speaking with me, but who am I, whom do I represent? The State of Israel. Do you recognize it as an entity? He tried to get out of answering. He said: I am speaking with you because I have an invitation which says I have to meet with so-and-so, you, Ben-Aharon, Israel's representative. So, I am talking to Israel. I told him that was not what I meant. Are you prepared to recognize Israel? He answered: Tell me which Israel, that of 1948, 1949 or 1973? I told him: You know what, you choose. Do you recognize any Israel, whether it is 1947, even if it is only Tel Aviv and its environs? He did not answer.

Later I told him: If that is the situation, let us decide together that we are stopping threats, hostility, and shooting incidents, at least during the negotiations. I then gave him the example of a mother of seven who was murdered in the bus attack a week ago. I asked him whether he knew that the gang who perpetrated the attack did it on instruction from an element whose headquarters are based on Syrian territory, Habash. Are you prepared to try to stop such activity or to make sure that no such activity is initiated from Syrian territory or land under Syrian control in Lebanon and we will undertake the same?

[Ronen] What did he say?

[Ben-Aharon] He asked me—I had used the word terror—what is terror? I am prepared to discuss with you on a different occasion the issue of who is a terrorist and what is terrorism. You are trying all the time to get out of discussing the issue. It is totally irrelevant, he said to me. I told him: What is more relevant than to end violence? No, no, first you must agree to withdraw from the Golan Heights and then all those actions you are referring to will cease naturally, as if by reflex, he said. I told him: You are putting the cart before the horse. We must first create the basis to get rid of the irritating elements—the friction, the hostility, the threats, the violence—and then you can build the peace structure. His face remained blank as though I had not said anything, and that is how we went on until we reached the fourth hour, when we touched on the venue. I told him: Let us decide on where and when we meet again. He replied: We are already here; what's wrong with Madrid? I told him: I have nothing against Madrid, but you are a neighbor. I want the Syrians to see you are talking with me, with the Israelis. We are a free democratic people. You will be seen. Come, we want to host you in Tiberias, and then we will negotiate. He told me: I am prepared to continue here in Madrid....

[Ronen, interrupting] He does not like Tiberias?

[Ben-Aharon] In reference to your proposal that we meet in Israel, he said, I cannot come while you occupy our lands. I told him: Let us not meet on occupied land, let us meet in Israel, which he perhaps accepts. He said: That makes no difference to me. So I said: Okay, we will come to you. He did not accept it. So I said: If that is the situation, let us decide that we will be in touch. He told me: If there is a need for contact, we will do it via the Americans. That is how the talk ended.

[Ronen] Did the discussion become heated? Was there an argument?

[Ben-Aharon] There were one or two instances when I noticed that he was losing his patience, when he asked me numerous times to discuss acceptance and implementation of Resolution 242 and withdrawal. I told him: Everything in good time. We will not try to get out of anything, but let us form the basis. Then he said: I am beginning to lose patience. So I answered: You do not have to lose patience; why are you angry? He said: No, I am not angry.

[Ronen] Did you conclude the meeting in a pleasant atmosphere, did you shake hands and say you would meet again?

[Ben-Aharon] I thanked him and said good-bye. I did not offer him my hand so as not to embarrass him because I knew he did not want to shake hands. His boss, the foreign minister, decided that. What I did tell him was: Why not give the media a photo opportunity, it is an impressive situation, the people of Israel would be happy to see us sitting together at the beginning of a dialogue. He said no. I told him: Are you afraid it might cause problems at home, perhaps unrest about the fact that you are meeting with Israelis? Are we like the untouchables in India who are inferior? That somewhat angered him. He said: No, I told you I do not want to. We did not come here to play games or be dramatic, but to negotiate.

[Ronen] Does that mean that the situation at this point is that we are waiting for some sort of connection through the Americans to know what happens now? Nothing has so far been finalized on a venue and time for further talks?

[Ben-Aharon] To my regret, the situation is that they do not want to negotiate with us directly. They took this step, which they think is a big concession. As I told the Americans: They will probably come to you and demand something in return for the big concession. I recommended to the Americans to tell them, there has been no concession, it is merely communications. It should have

taken place 10, 20, 30 years ago. They should not be given anything in return for it. A demand should be made to them to talk with us and only us, and not via the United States.

MENA: 'Intransigence on Both Sides'

NC0411120091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 4 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned from informed sources that yesterday's five-hour meeting between the Israeli and Syrian delegations was characterized by intransigence on both sides. The Israeli delegation insisted that trust-building measures were more important to it than drawing up the agenda for future bilateral meetings.

The sources added that the two delegations also disagreed on the venue of the future meetings. The Syrians insist on holding them in Madrid, while the Israelis want to hold them in the Middle East.

MENA learned from a Syrian source that if Washington is proposed as a venue for the talks, the Syrians will make two demands:

1. Syria must be taken off the list of terrorist countries.

2. The United States must resume its contacts with the PLO as a guarantee that all members of the Palestinian Advisory Council will be given entry visas to the United States.

MENA also learned from its informed sources that the Israeli- Jordanian meeting went more smoothly, despite the fact that the Israelis rejected many proposed points including the venue of the talks. The Israelis want future meetings to be held alternately in Amman and Herzliyya [Israel]. They also refuse to treat the Palestinian and Jordanian sides in the joint delegation separately and insist on treating them as one delegation.

The Palestinian delegation asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to make contacts to ensure freedom of communication and movement and other facilities for its members in the occupied territories when the meetings are held and at other times. The Americans promised to do that.

The informed sources said that during the Israeli-Lebanese meeting, the Lebanese delegation focused on the need to halt raids on southern Lebanon. It also is seeking to exert pressure on Israel through the United States. The sources say that Lebanon's demand is to secure Israel's withdrawal from its territories and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Netanyahu on Talks With Syrians

LD0411025791 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2251 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report by correspondent Esther Vazquez at the Palacio de Cristal press center]

[Text] Good evening, from the Palacio de Cristal of the Casa de Campo. Israeli Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is the last to give a news conference on this long night here at the Palacio de Cristal. The Israeli deputy foreign minister said that this has been a good night, a night of peace, and that they had accomplished Israel's main aim—that of negotiating directly with each of its Arab neighbors. He said that that aim had been achieved at these first direct negotiations. He also commented that the undertakings to continue that had been obtained will be honored. In other words, these negotiations will continue, and they will be held as soon as possible. That is the same form of words as has been used by the other delegations; in other words, they were unwilling to fix a specific date and are limiting themselves to the phrase, as soon as possible.

On the question of Syria and Israel, the Israeli deputy minister said that he does not believe there are any serious problems—he said this at this briefing which is still going on at this moment—and he said that if any problem had arisen it would have been mentioned.

On the subject of the postponement of the meeting, he said that the Israeli delegation had not known that it was to be postponed. They learned this only two minutes before 1000 today. But he added that it was a success that this meeting had in the end been achieved. He went on to remind journalists that there is no fixed timetable; neither has anyone been willing to say whether agreement has been reached on a venue. That is not known as yet. That is all for the moment, as the Israeli deputy minister's news conference is continuing in the press hall.

Jordan, Israel Begin Bilateral Meetings 3 Nov

JN0311125891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The second phase of the Middle East peace process got under way at the Parcent Palace in Madrid this morning to promote the implemention of international legitimacy based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Bilateral talks were held between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and an Israeli team.

The Jordanian side is led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and includes Messrs. 'Awwad al-Khalidi, Walid al-Khalidi, Muhammad 'Affash al-'Adwan, and Staff Major-General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i. The Palestinian side is led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and comprises Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, Ghassan al-Khatib, Nabil Qassis, and Furayh Abu-Middayn. The Israeli side is led by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, Israeli Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval, Dani Rothschild, Nadav 'Aner, Yosef Sarari, and Yosef 'Amihud.

The talks between the Israeli and Syrian teams on the one hand, and between the Lebanese and Israeli sides on the other, are set to begin at 1500 Jordan time.

Amman Radio: 'Good' Talks

JN0311141691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The first round of bilateral talks between the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation and the Israeli delegation concluded in Madrid at 1330 Jordan time today.

The Jordanian official spokesman said the talks were good and practical. No agreement has thus far been reached on the topics discussed, he said, adding that each delegation presented its viewpoint on the venue of the next talks. He said no obstacles emerged during the meeting, nor has the meeting reached a deadlock. The two delegations, he added, will resume their meeting at 1700 Jordan time today to continue discussions of the topics on the table. The spokesman said no conclusion time for today's talks was set.

Delegate on First Talks With Israelis

JN0311165791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1608 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, in Madrid, by Jawad al-'Umari in Amman on 3 November—recorded]

[Text] [Al-'Umari] How did today's talks within the second phase of the Madrid peace conference proceed?

[Al-Majali] The two sides came to the scheduled meeting place at 1000 today. Members of the two delegations entered the meeting room, sat down, and gave their names. Then the meeting began, and, of course, media representatives were there and took pictures. The meeting began with a speech I delivered. I talked about our objectives for the meeting, explaining the main backgrounds of the meeting—Resolutions 242 and 338, which mean land for peace—and stating that we will continue negotiations accepting two parallel tracks: Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab, or Israeli-Jordanian. I said that in the meeting we would discuss the place where the next bilateral talks will continue, the time frame of those talks, and relevant procedural points, such as the days, hours, and so on and so forth. Afterward, we could move on to the other subjects to be discussed.

There are no specific agendas. It was agreed that there would be free discussions; that is, topics should not be itemized, and they could be discussed immediately. The time expired before we finalized our talks, so we postponed the meeting until the afternoon so that each delegation would have time to make contacts if it had any new information about where the negotiations will continue. We will resume discussions about whether to continue the talks in the same place or change venue, and also about other procedural matters.

[Al-'Umari] Doctor, were there specific sites proposed as possible venues for the continuation of negotiations?

[Al-Majali] No specific venues were proposed. The Israeli delegation expressed a willingness to hold the talks in the Middle East. We said that this does not suit us. We insist that the meetings continue in Madrid, but if this is not possible, then we will accept any neutral place.

[Al-'Umari] Thank you.

[Al-Majali] You are welcome.

Amman Reports Statement

JN0311193191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1905 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The second round of talks between the joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation concluded at about 1930 Jordan time today. After the talks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, made a statement to journalists in the name of the three delegations, summing up the outcome. He said the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation and the Israeli delegation met today, opening direct negotiations on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He added that the talks will be held along two tracks: Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli. The talks were held in a good, practical atmosphere, and dealt with procedures for future talks, which will hopefully be held soon. The parties expressed their views on the venue of the negotiations. Consultations on this point and other issues related to the talks will continue.

The head of the Israeli delegation then made a statement saying: I agree with this statement and add that the talks with the Palestinian side will focus on autonomy.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, expressed reservations about the Israeli proposal concerning priorities.

The second round of talks between the two delegations was held at 1700 Jordan time today; it continued for about two hours.

'Ashrawi Said 'Exultant' Over Talks

LD0311235291 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The meeting [between the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations] was viewed positively by Hanan 'Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian delegation. What were the main points highlighted by the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation? Antonio Alonso reports:

[Alonso] The spokeswoman was exultant at the results obtained in today's talks, although she stressed that her delegation had reservations regarding the matters to be discussed and their order. She spoke of a priority matter that they raised with the Israelis:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, here and below recorded in English fading to Spanish voiceover] There is a political basis for Palestinian participation, and the most important of all for Palestinian participation is the cessation of all repressive activities. The Palestinian people want to state their right to put forward any point which they consider important on the agenda of any future talks. [end recording]

[Alonso] Hanan 'Ashrawi confirmed that bilateral talks had turned into trilateral talks because there will be an Israeli delegation negotiating separately with the Jordanians and Palestinians. Asked if it would be long before the resumption of these talks, she replied:

['Ashrawi] First of all, if you think that Mr. Baker would leave a country without leaving things settled, then I think that you do not know him very well. I am very sure that Mr. Baker has many plans up his sleeve, but I am sure that he has left nothing pending and that the Palestinians and Israelis have a more or less tentative view that as soon as possible could mean two or three weeks, which is not long. [end recording]

[Alonso] Two or three weeks at the most, the Palestinian spokeswoman said. She foresees intense contacts over the next few hours with the Arab delegations with which, she said, there has always been full coordination. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians, like the Israelis, will leave Madrid tomorrow:

['Ashrawi] We are staying until tomorrow. We have meetings scheduled. We are holding meetings with other people, with other countries, with U.S. officials and so on, and Arab coordination is under way.

'Ashrawi on Bilateral Talks

JN0411072991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Madrid, by Suhayl Khuri in Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Dr. 'Ashrawi, how was progress on the first day of the bilateral negotiations?

['Ashrawi] In fact, things got under way in a very serious and smooth way. The negotiations were confined to purely procedural and technical issues.

[Khuri] Has the Palestinian delegation presented specific issues?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian delegation presented a statement on the general political position, but the agenda was restricted to issues related to the venue of the meeting and ways of following it up.

[Khuri] Could you tell us something about the contents of the political statement?

['Ashrawi] Yes. The political statement included the Palestinian constants and the Palestinian position. At the beginning of the statement there was emphasis on settlements and the principles according to which the Palestinian delegation joined these negotiations.

[Khuri] When will the bilateral negotiations resume?

['Ashrawi] No specific time has been fixed, but the negotiations will resume as soon as possible after agreeing on the venue of the next meetings.

[Khuri] Could you tell us your impressions about the first stage of the peace process?

['Ashrawi] In fact, this is a very difficult stage although no real obstacles have emerged. However, what will follow will also come through (?agreement). Here begin issues of who decides the agenda. We are committed to the letter of assurances and our position that the Palestinian side has the right to add any clause to the agenda. We also have the right, and preserve our right, to decide our priorities.

[Khuri] We thank Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian side in the joint delegation. Thank you.

No Palestinian Objection to Autonomy

JN0311081791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 91 pp 1, 21

[Text] Madrid (PETRA)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, has said that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is proceeding very well to back the joint position in order to attain peace and recognition of Arab rights.

In a statement to the Jordanian media team, he added that the first session of bilateral negotiations between the Arab and Israeli sides will be held in Madrid today, and will tackle the time and venue of the coming negotiations. He indicated that he is still optimistic.

He said that there is disagreement between the Arab parties and Israel on the venue of the coming negotiations, but he hoped that this disagreement would be settled today. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that we prefer to hold the negotiations in Madrid.

On the Egyptian role in the coming peace negotiations, Dr. 'Abd- al-Shafi said that since Egypt has relations with Israel it will play a role in pushing the negotiations to continue and reach a just solution.

Regarding the priorities the Palestinian delegation will raise in the negotiations, he said: The conference in general is based on the implementation of Resolution 242, and on agreeing that this resolution means withdrawal from the occupied territories.

He said: The Palestinian delegation does not object to an autonomy phase until withdrawal is achieved.

He said that the advisory council of the Palestinian side held a number of meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his presence in Madrid to continue consultations on the peace process.

Israel: 'Good and Businesslike'

TA0311121791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1134 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report from the Ritz Hotel in Madrid by Ilana Dayan]

[Text] We have initial information on the proceedings in the negotiating hall. The first, central, and most important piece of news is that the talks may continue until 1700. This is the information we received from one of the Jordanians who came down from the hall. On the other hand, one of the U.S. secretaries here from the State Department said that it is not clear to her whether the talks will continue until 1700, although this is definitely a possibility. Still, there is a consensus that a joint statement will be issued and the press will be addressed at the end of this session. This is why the pool of journalists, which this morning numbered up to 15 reporters, currently includes additional journalists from the United States and the foreign news agencies.

As for what is happening inside the hall, we have been told that the atmosphere is good and businesslike, although only procedural matters have been discussed so far, not substantive issues. I have not yet been able to get an answer from the Jordanian delegate on whether an agreement has been reached on anything procedural. He refused to say whether they did or did not. He also refused to divulge what was agreed upon or not; still, he led me to believe that the atmosphere was good and that everyone was talking, which is to say that there is not only one delegate from the delegation who talks, namely that everyone contributes to the discussions. They have not yet split up into working teams; this may happen later.

Incidentally, the Jordanian spokesman we talked to was the spokesman for the Jordanian Embassy in the United States. And one more tidbit: Dov Shefi, the defense establishment's legal adviser, who finally managed to enter as an official member of the delegation, has been appointed legal adviser of this committee. Shefi took part in the Camp David autonomy talks and all the talks over self-administration for the Palestinians and the temporary and the permanent settlement. He and Elyaqim Rubinstein dealt with those matters closely at the time. It stands to reason, therefore, that Rubinstein invited him to serve as a member of the committee here. He will indeed be this committee's legal adviser, and he is already in the room.

Let us again emphasize that this report was given merely by a Jordanian source; the U.S. source has not confirmed or denied this. Incidentally, there is constant activity here in anticipation of the possible arrival of the Syrians and the Lebanese. The Palestinians constantly insist that this will indeed happen, that although the Syrians refused to show up at the prescribed place, they are interested in coming here because they want to establish some sort of parallelism, indicating some linkage between the talks with them and the talks with the Palestinians and the Lebanese.

There is also a logistic problem: It seems that the problem was that the rooms were too small, but the logistic response was that this corresponds with the small size of the delegations. After all, there are not too many Israelis still left to talk with the Syrians. The Syrians, too, will not send more than two or three people, so that from the logistic point of view this will not be a problem. The symbolic element, however, seems to be very important for the Syrians, who want the talks to be held simultaneously at the same place, or at least with some sort of parallelism with the discussions with the other delegations.

Israel is not prepared to accept this parallelism under any circumstances. Israel may, however, bend a little over the venue, namely that all the deliberations will be held here. But Israel is not prepared to establish the parallelism in time because of the possible implication that there is an even deeper and more substantive parallelism here in terms of creating a linkage between the deliberations among the various delegations. So for the moment this is a problem. I repeat: The Palestinians insist that this happen, and this was also their interpretation of the Syrian announcement from the Ritz Hotel approximately an hour and a half ago, that they came here to talk substance and are not ready to accept the Israeli demand that the talks be transferred to the Middle East. Still, the Syrians did not say in their statement that they are leaving. The announcement came from a relatively junior official, and the conclusion at least the Palestinians here draw is that they will still show up.

[At 1148 GMT on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew, Dayan updates that the Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian talks have adjourned, adding: "Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein also left just now, after the representatives of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation left. The first to leave the room was Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation. He refused to disclose whether any progress had been made. In reply to my question, however, he said they will reconvene at 1600. He said that the atmosphere was good, but beyond that the Palestinians refused to say anything except that al-Khatib, one of the members of the Palestinian delegation, said that if the Syrians do not come by then, they will not return. This is important.

["Elyaqim Rubinstein, who left shortly thereafter, refused to confirm this report. In other words, he refused to address the question of whether if the Syrians do not show up, the Palestinians too would not return. He said that the atmosphere was good, that topics which are usually discussed in such meetings were addressed, and also said that no agreement has yet been reached on the venue for the talks." Dayan adds that Rubinstein, too, "insisted that the atmosphere was good." Dayan also reports that all the Israeli committee members who left

the hall "were smiling." She volunteers that "it is obvious to us" that this long recess is going to be used by the Palestinians "to consult with Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi." She notes that "it is evident that all the Palestinians here are members of Faysal al-Husayni's closest circle," noting that this somewhat worried 'Ashrawi's camp.]

Israel Radio: 'Very Good' Talk

TA0311135291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1305 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan from Madrid]

[Text] The bilateral talk was very good, people said. One of the issues that was discussed was the venue. The Jordanians and the Palestinians are both currently mentioning a neutral site, any neutral place that can be agreed upon, and did not suggest any specific place. Still, they said that perhaps in a month it will be possible to pursue the talks in the Middle East, but only after a month. Like the Syrians and the Lebanese, they also want to find a neutral venue for the beginning of the direct bilateral negotiations between the Arab delegations and the Israeli delegation. Nothing in this regard has been concluded yet. The Israeli delegates told the Jordanians and the Palestinians: We are going back home tomorrow. We will hold consultations. You will consult with Amman and the other places that everyone knows about but will not mention openly, and then we will go back and discuss the issue again.

Both sides evinced readiness to promote the political process, maintain the momentum, and cause no delays. This was the atmosphere of the talks, as compared with the freeze with the Syrians and the Lebanese.

The delegations also discussed ideas on how many times a week the meetings should be held, or perhaps adjourning them once a week for consultations. There is a possibility that initially there will be meetings between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. However, the possibility is also being considered—and Israel will agree—of breaking into subgroups, not necessarily separate Jordanian and Palestinian groups; we shall rather describe them as subgroups divided according to subject matter. In other words, if autonomy issues are discussed, we will discuss them with the Palestinians; if we discuss Israel's long border with Jordan, we will do so with the Jordanians, and so on. Israel is definitely prepared for a breakup in the course of the direct negotiations, or holding separate and simultaneous talks with Jordan and with Palestine [as heard]. Thus, even though the Palestinian delegation is included in the Jordanian delegation, it has a status that Israel will have to take into consideration later on.

Well, then, to sum up: The meeting was described as businesslike. The Israeli delegation is now waiting for the next meeting in the negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians, which will take place in approximately two hours. This will be the same delegation. Israel still insists that the talks should be held in the Middle East, but the deliberations are continuing and the atmosphere, as we said, is very good.

Israel Reports More on Talks

TA0311184491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1745 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report from the Justice Ministry building in Madrid by Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Dayan] The meeting between the Israeli delegation and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has just ended. Here is the head of the Jordanian delegation summing up today's talks, and let us try to hear him.

[Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in English]....in a businesslike atmosphere. Matters discussed involved procedural issues of the talks to be held in the future, which, it is hoped, will take place soon. The parties expressed their view on the possible venue of the negotiations.

[Dayan] The head of the Jordanian delegation says that consultations on the venue of the talks will continue, but it was agreed that the talks will continue.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, the cabinet secretary, has now taken the floor, and is saying that negotiations will first be held about a temporary arrangement for the Palestinians.

[Rubinstein, in English]...from the meeting which is the second half of our meeting today with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Both delegations met today to start direct negotiations, and we will be conducting these negotiations, as you know, along two tracks. One is concerning the Palestinians in the territories, and this will be done in two phases: the first is interim self-government arrangements, and the other is a Jordanian-Israeli track which is a bilateral track. The whole process is based on 242 and 338, as you know. The talks were held in a good, businesslike atmosphere, one can say, and matters discussed included procedural issues.

[Dayan] Rubinstein said that the parties expressed their view on the possible venue for the talks and consultations on this issue will continue.

Rubinstein shook hands with 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, also talked, saying that they presented the Palestinian stance regarding the priorities of the negotiations.

Elyaqim, when will the consultations resume?

[Rubinstein] In the coming days.

[Dayan] Where will these consultations continue? Elyaqim Rubinstein's response was that the consultations will continue in the coming days, and that the way and venue for this will be found.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 November reports that "in the meeting with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation it transpired that the Palestinians are prepared to open direct negotiations in the Middle East in a month's time, although they want to hold an earlier meeting in a neutral country."]

Rubinstein on Atmospherics

TA0311204891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Interview with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team talking with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by political correspondent Natan Gutman in Madrid "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Gutman] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, today you headed the Israeli team in talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Were these direct negotiations a historic event, or merely technical?

[Rubinstein] I think a certain sense of history in the making certainly prevails here. Without ignoring the difficulties expected in the future—and difficulties will arise in the course of negotiations—we certainly felt a sense of history in the making, an awareness that for the first time in the history of the conflict, formal negotiations between the Israelis and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation were being conducted. There is still a long road before us, but a bit of history was made here today.

[Gutman] What progress was made in the discussions on procedure?

[Rubinstein] I do not want to discuss details. As we have announced, we will continue our consultations with them through appropriate channels. In any event, as said, the talks were good and businesslike. I think this characterization correctly reflects the events.

[Gutman] Can you say there is no connection between the progress made in the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and progress in talks at the other forums?

[Rubinstein] I would like to hope there is, but I do not know how things will develop. Our approach—and I hope theirs will be the same—is to refrain from linking one thing to another in order to prevent radicals from thwarting the chances for progress. It does not depend on us alone, however.

[Gutman] Will Israel agree, at a later stage, to separate the talks and to start discussing Palestinian issues with the Palestinians and Jordanian problems with the Jordanian delegation?

[Rubinstein] We are talking with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and that is how it will remain. Naturally, the negotiations will be composed of diverse parts; together with them, we will have to decide on the ratio of participation in every part of the negotiations.

[Gutman] Speaking of atmosphere, Mr. Rubinstein, did the Israelis manage to forge personal links with their interlocutors today?

[Rubinstein] I do not wish to go too far in assessing or describing the talks, but they were definitely informal. It is true that when you are acquainted with the person with whom you hold talks, work becomes more pleasant. I would not like to say anything beyond that.

U.S. Invitation to Syrians Required

TA0311133591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1314 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from Madrid]

[Excerpt] The Israeli delegation definitely has no intention of showing up for the meeting with the Syrians. The explanation given in the Israeli delegation was that the Syrians have broken the rules of the game. Those who determine the times for the meetings and officially announce the time and place, are the Americans alone, and they have not announced a meeting today at 1400. Dennis Ross was here until not long ago, and at the end of his talks he did not announce an agreed-upon time.

The Syrians, for their part, announced unilaterally that they would arrive today at 1400 for the meeting, but this is unacceptable to Israel. Israel wishes to hear a formal and authoritative announcement from the U.S. side to tell us where and when to show up. After that is agreed upon the talks will resume, or actually begin. At this stage, Israel has no intention of dashing to the venue where the Syrians are, or as an Israeli delegation source said: The Syrians may show up at any place in Europe at any time and announce: Look, we showed up, while the Israelis did not. That is why it is necessary to observe the rules of the game. Only the United States can officially announce the time and place for the meetings. [passage omitted]

Israeli Teams for Talks Named

TA0311065391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report from Madrid by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] At 1100 Israel time [0900 GMT] three Israeli teams will report to three different locations in Madrid, hoping to meet the Arab delegations' working teams. As of very late last night, it was not at all certain that the Arab delegations would indeed show up for the first direct meetings between the parties. It is assumed that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will come to meet the Israeli team.

The Israeli team for the only certain meeting will consist of Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who chairs the team; Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories; Nadav 'Aner, from the Prime

Minister's Office; Zalman Shoval, ambassador to Washington; Nahman Grifor from the Defense Ministry; and Yosef 'Amihud, the team's spokesman.

It is possible that Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, who heads the team for talks with Syria, will be left without work. His team includes Yequti'el Mor; Yig'al Karmon from the Prime Minister's Office; Yosef Tzruya from the Defense Ministry; and spokesman Dr. Yosi Olmert, head of the Government Press Office. This team does not include a Foreign Ministry member.

Heading the team for negotiations with Lebanon is Salay Meridor, adviser to the defense minister, and includes David Kimche, former Foreign Ministry director general; Ya'aqov Neriya from the Defense Ministry; Me'ir Bar-Ze'ev; and team spokesman Yosi Gal, both from the Foreign Ministry.

The discussions and reports will be coordinated at Hotel Husa Princesa by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, head of the Israeli delegation. Last night he told us that Israel will show up as agreed for the first direct bilateral meeting to determine the location, framework, procedure, and duration for the direct negotiations, which it believes should be held in the Middle East. We want to establish personal contacts between the teams. We are willing to hold continuous discussions, today and tomorrow, on the issues termed technical and procedural, he said, but tomorrow at 1500 [1300 GMT on 4 November] the Israeli team will return home. [passage omitted]

Israeli Envoy to U.S. on Talks

TA0311191691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1810 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to Washington, by Rafi Reshef and Ilana Dayan, from Madrid—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Good evening, Mr. Ambassador.

[Shoval] Good evening.

[Reshef] You have attended the meeting with the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, have you not?

[Shoval] I have.

[Reshef] Was the atmosphere really wonderful?

[Shoval] There was a good and certainly businesslike atmosphere. Wonderful or not, it was businesslike and devoid of unnecessary friction. We should remember, of course, that this is merely the initial stage in a very long journey; we have not yet reached the real problems. The Israeli delegation is talking about a structure that is supposed to become the framework for our life together, while they are speaking about something else. Still, it was a good start.

[Reshef] I understand you have agreed to continue the talks in the coming days.

[Shoval] Yes, both sides want to maintain the momentum. Tomorrow our delegation will return home, and I assume within a few days the government will furnish the delegation with instructions and guidelines concerning the outstanding issues, with a focus on the venue of the talks. We and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation have discussed communication channels—ways of communicating decisions to each other—in order to ensure rapid progress.

[Reshef] If I understand the statement of Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the delegation, at the end of the talks, there is—to put it tactfully—a certain possible venue that is acceptable to both sides. Is it true?

[Shoval] Listen, there has to be a mutually acceptable venue; otherwise there will be no meeting. No such venue, however, was agreed on in today's meeting. They raised certain ideas, and our own view on this point has not changed. We are speaking about meetings in the region, in our own countries, while they have a different outlook on the matter. In any event, there is definitely no talk about meeting in Madrid. The cabinet will have to discuss and decide on these questions, and we will get back to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in due course.

[Reshef] I understand the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation wants to meet in Washington.

[Shoval] I think you have misunderstood.

[Reshef] I see. But they do not wish to meet in the Middle East, either?

[Shoval] They said that at this point—and some people have defined this point as being a month long—they are not interested in meeting in the Middle East, or, to be more precise, they do not wish to meet in the suggested countries—Israel and Jordan—alternately. I believe the government will examine other ideas, too, before giving them our reply.

[Reshef] Ilana Dayan says they may be talking about Cairo.

[Shoval] I have not heard about that idea, but I suggest we do not play guessing games. We do not yet know what the venue is.

[Reshef] Do you believe a compromise on the issue of the venue is possible?

[Shoval] I hope it is, because while it may be the first obstacle, it certainly is not the biggest.

[Dayan] Mr. Shoval, can we assume there will be another Israeli meeting with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation tomorrow?

[Shoval] No, no, you cannot assume any such thing. The encounter between us and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has ended—not just for today, but for this entire chapter.

[Dayan] In that case, will the contacts designed to find a mechanism for future talks be held behind the scenes?

[Shoval] No, they can be held through ordinary communication channels, after the cabinet deliberates on the issues. We are talking about direct negotiations without intermediaries here, and they do not have to take place behind the scenes.

[Reshef] By the way, does the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation speak with one voice?

[Shoval] At this precarious point, I prefer not to voice opinions about what goes on in the other delegations.

[Reshef] What do the Palestinians mean when they speak of setting an order of priorities?

[Shoval] With reference to the content of the negotiations? Look, there is an outline, an order of action on which all the sides have—or should have—agreed in advance. Right now, we are talking about the interim settlement. In the past it was called autonomy; now it is called self-government arrangements. There is no argument on this issue. Naturally, the Palestinians' final goals differ from ours, but the issue you have mentioned is not on the agenda, according to the order of action.

[Dayan] What was Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi referring to in the only sentence he uttered at the semi-improvised news conference—namely, that the Palestinians reserve the right to intervene in the setting of priorities? Do they have something in mind that comes before the temporary arrangement, such as an easing in the sphere of human rights in the territories, or something to do with the intifadah?

[Shoval] No, I do not think he meant that. Even if they do have in mind something connected with the territories, however, it has nothing to do with the formal negotiations. They may submit requests or demands within the scope of what are termed confidence-building measures [preceding three words in English], and perhaps they will. If they do, we will naturally tell them: Look, even before we began the negotiations, we did this and that, and we are willing to discuss further measures. This may affect the negotiations, but it is not part of the negotiations.

[Reshef] Was the question of settlements mentioned?

[Shoval] As a topic for debate, the question of settlements was not raised.

[Reshef] In what way was it raised?

[Shoval] Well, the meeting lasted several hours, during which various delegates from various sides made declarations. The issue was not up for negotiation, however, because, as is well known, the issue of settlements is part of what is known as the final accommodation, or the final status. The turn of the final status will come only at the end of the third year.

[Reshef] Mr. Shoval, technically speaking, how does one conduct negotiations with 17 delegates participating?

[Shoval] Naturally, not all 17 took the floor. Besides, today's meeting was only the first. It was a meeting with the participation of all the committees, and the composition of those is not necessarily final and permanent. Some of the members will not participate in the ensuing negotiations. I, for instance, will have to return to Washington. I assume that various experts on water, land, and so forth will join the committees, changing the delegations' shape.

[Reshef] Would it be true to say that we have taken another step along the long and arduous path of peace negotiations?

[Shoval] I hope we have.

[Reshef] Thank you very much, Ambassador Shoval.

[Shoval] Thank you.

Netanyahu 'Disappointed' by Syria

TA0311113691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from the Husa Princesa Hotel in Madrid]

[Text] Even before the Israeli teams left for the talks today at various locations in Madrid, it was fairly clear to the Foreign Ministry team here that the Syrians and the Lebanese had no intention of coming. Israel went nevertheless, sat in the two venues, and waited for approximately 30 minutes, only to find out that the Syrians and the Lebanese were indeed not coming. Israel won the information points and is still awaiting developments in this context.

The Israeli delegation did not rule out the possibility that the Syrians and the Lebanese will finally arrive at a later stage. Some have mentioned Washington on Wednesday, others mention Madrid in one of the next few days. All in all, we were told that the Israeli delegation's plan to return on Monday at 1500 is merely an intention but that it is not binding and may be subject to change. While Israel has scored points from the information angle, from the substantive point of view the negotiations have not yet ended, and people here still believe that the United States will be able to bring Syria to the negotiating table.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is currently the head of the Israeli team, reacted a few minutes ago to the developments and the absence of the

Syrians and the Lebanese from the negotiating table. Let us hear an excerpt from his news conference with Israeli reporters:

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] We were surprised by and disappointed with the fact that the Syrian delegation, and naturally also the Lebanese delegation, failed to show up. There had been an agreement on the time and the venue. Three Israeli teams showed up, but we did not see any reciprocity on the part of two out of the three Arab delegations. We do not understand why Syria insists on sabotaging this process, why it is playing these games. We did not come to play games; we came to launch direct peace negotiations—first of all on procedural issues. I see that it seems it is difficult for Syria to take even this tiny step.

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Arye Golan] Is the conclusion that negotiations with Syria will not be held at all?

[Netanyahu] I would not say that; I think that from their point of view the Syrians made a rather substantial mistake, because their position is incomprehensible. I think one should wait and see whether they understand that they have made a mistake and correct it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will the talks with the Jordanians continue even without the Syrians?

[Netanyahu] Definitely. We said that we are not making progress on one axis conditional upon progress in the others. Of course, there is no doubt in my mind that the fundamental problem we are contending with is the state of war that the Arab world has waged against us. This bred the so-called Palestinian problem, and it will be very difficult to reach a stable solution without solving the problem of the state of war and the absence of peace treaties between us and the major Arab countries, first and foremost Syria. Yet we are not linking the progress on these fronts in any practical terms.

[Gutman] Will you agree to meet with the Syrians at another place and another time?

[Netanyahu] I cannot see why it is constantly necessary to change the rules of the game. These rules were set for this morning, we played by them, and I cannot understand why the Syrians must constantly change them and come up with all sorts of inventions. [end recording]

[Gutman] Two key phrases from the jargon used by the Israeli information team this morning: First of all, this is not a circus; second, we did not come here to play games. This is Israel's explanation for what has happened from its standpoint. Still the possibility cannot be ruled out or rejected outright that talks will be held with the Syrians and the Lebanese—the Syrians' satellite—during the next few days, apparently in Madrid, perhaps also in Washington. All in all, this is not the end of the process, Israel emphasizes.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 3 November also carries excerpts of Netanyahu's news conference with the Israeli press. Asked about whether one of the reasons for the Syrians' absence was Israel's bombardment in Lebanon this morning, Netanyahu said: "I would say that if anyone had a just cause not to come because it had been attacked by another party, this would be Israel. We came nevertheless. We came even though we have suffered attacks, some of which have involved loss of life, on Lebanese soil. We came because we want to find a solution to this problem, a solution that will offer peace and security. This is one of the subjects that must be addressed at the negotiating table. Therefore, not only is this an unsatisfactory pretext; it is simply no factor at all, not a consideration."]

Reports on 3 Nov Israel-Lebanon Talks

Delegation Head Comments

TA0311211191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2045 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report by Eldad Beck from the Justice Ministry building in Madrid—live]

[Text] [Beck] The meeting between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations ended a few minutes ago. The Lebanese delegation has already left the place. The head of the Israeli delegation is now making a statement to the press in English. We will wait another few minutes to hear his remarks in Hebrew. At any rate, it seems to me that the atmosphere....[changes thought] There was an agreement at this meeting on the continuation of the consultations. There is as yet no agreement on the venue at which the talks will take place in the future. Let us now try to hear S .lay Meridor.

Mr. Meridor, we are from IDF Radio and would please like to know the atmosphere that prevailed during the talk: Was the atmosphere warm and hearty, as was the case with the Palestinians and Jordanians?

[Meridor] The atmosphere during the talks was good and pleasant. The Israeli delegation today met for the first time for bilateral talks with a Lebanese delegation, and we hope we will continue the talks as soon as possible to reach a peace treaty with Lebanon ultimately.

[Beck] Did the Lebanese raise the issue of UN Resolution 425; that is, an immediate Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Meridor] The Lebanese raised various issues, and so did we, but I do not think it would be right to elaborate on the issues at the moment.

[Beck] What about the venue of the coming talks?

Well that is it. We got no answer. The Israeli delegation is now turning back to return to the Husa Princesa Hotel. Let us point out that the Lebanese delegation did not come out with an announcement of its own, unlike the way it was following the talks between Israel and the

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, when a joint statement was issued. The Israeli and Lebanese delegations discussed the venue of the talks, but Meridor says additional talks on this will still have to be held. As far as Israel is concerned, the talks will be held as soon as possible.

Lebanese Insist on Madrid as Venue

NC0311224891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The first round of bilateral Lebanese-Israeli talks ended at 2300, having lasted about two hours with a 15-minute break. After the meeting, Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan said that in this first session of the bilateral talks, the Lebanese delegation met with the Israeli delegation and discussed the venue and time of the next meeting. The Lebanese delegation reaffirmed its position that the bilateral talks must focus on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Salay Meridor, head of the Israeli delegation, said that the two sides will resume the negotiations as soon as possible, adding that the venue and arrangements of future negotiations were discussed and each side made its proposals.

Following the Lebanese-Israeli meeting, Ambassadors Mubarak, Hammud, and Murtada went to the hotel where Ambassador Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, is staying, and briefed him on the meeting.

It has been learned that the head of the Israeli delegation, Salay Meridor, began his speech by demanding that the Middle East be the venue of the next meeting. The Lebanese delegation countered by insisting that Madrid remain the venue. Ambassador al-Hasan also raised the issue of the Israeli attacks against the south.

Bilateral talks between Syria and Israel began in Madrid a short while ago in the first face-to-face meeting between the two countries after 43 years of conflict. Syria was the last Arab state neighboring Israel to join the second stage of the peace process.

Buwayz on First Session, Venue

NC0411073991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Madrid by unidentified correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] The first round of talks began at 1900, Madrid time, and then adjourned at 2100 for a short rest. The talks were resumed and the second session continued. This session focused on organizing the future talks, that is, the discussions on the venue and time for the talks, the negotiations' technicalities, and the theme of these negotiations. We cannot say more than that at present.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, did you learn anything from the first part of the session during the recess?

[Buwayz] Of course, we spoke with Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, who is leading the delegation. He briefed me on the first part of the talks. We have what they call in English a support room, which is coordinating between us and the delegation. These were the issues discussed.

[Correspondent] Do you know anything about the venue for completing the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese delegation is committed to keeping these negotiations in Madrid. We have in fact no excuse for not doing so. The Spanish authorities performed their duties regarding security, logistics, arrangements, protocol, and so forth to the best of their ability. Therefore, I believe there is no justification for moving the talks. This is our stand. If it becomes necessary to move them, the capital or city we would prefer would be the one which could provide the most intensive and highest superpower presence near the delegation. In fact, this constitutes the guarantee to us on the credibility of this conference.

[Correspondent] What was the Israeli side's view on this issue?

[Buwayz] The Israeli side is insisting on moving the negotiations to the border. We have rejected this proposal for a number of reasons. First, we consider the border area under Israeli occupation and we refuse to meet in an area under Israeli (?authority). Second, as you know, the security situation in the south technically makes the movement of delegations almost impossible. Finally, if the meetings take place in the border areas, then the U.S. and Soviet representation will be of the second, third, or even fourth level. This is not appropriate.

On Resuming Talks 'in a Month'

NC0411083491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Lebanese and Israeli delegations met for approximately two hours with a 15-minute break [on 3 November].

After the meeting, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told AFP that the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon could be resumed in a month at the least, adding that the two sides agreed on this during their talks, which were characterized by realism and frankness. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Musa on State of Negotiations

NC0311135691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 3 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that bilateral talks have started in Madrid and will continue all day long between all parties to the conflict.

He said that the first session of Palestinian-Jordanian talks with Israel have concluded. The Lebanese-Israeli, and then the Syrian-Israeli talks, will be held.

He said it is possible that more than one session will take place today or tomorrow. He added that this gives us the impression that all parties are serious about the peace process, that the peace march has actually started, and that negotiations about the basic points have really begun. It is natural that there are procedural points that will be negotiated and some objective points will also be dealt with.

He expressed the hope that these negotiations will continue with the necessary sincerity.

The foreign minister affirmed that his evaluation of what has happened in Madrid so far is positive whether regarding the first stage of the conference or the direct negotiations, which started today as planned.

Minister Musa said that the talks cannot be restricted to the procedural aspects without dealing with the heart of the matter. He pointed out that the problems between Israel and the Arab countries are not problems over procedures, but over real matters, which are dangerous issues. If some procedural problems emerged in the past few days, all that is needed is a few meetings to work them out. The problems between Israelis and Arabs are very important, however, and cannot be confined to procedures; if they are, the bilateral negotiations will be meaningless.

Musa said that he does not believe that will happen. Musa was asked if the negotiations that will be held in Washington will be supervised by the United States. He responded by saying that negotiations will continue under U.S. and Soviet supervision, but that only the parties concerned will actually attend.

Egypt will continue to follow up the stages of negotiations with great detail, he said, adding that he met with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, before the direct negotiations. They also met following the conclusion of the first round of negotiations.

Egypt will follow up the negotiations, and a part of the Egyptian delegation will stay in Madrid to keep track of the talks until the direct negotiations are over.

Musa said that he is cautiously optimistic. Musa discussed the events that took place during the first session of direct negotiations between the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Israelis, saying that they were not restricted to formal issues but dealt with other aspects. They did actually work. Musa will leave the Spanish capital this evening.

Israelis Suggest al-'Aqabah, Elat for More Talks

TA0311225491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2205 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan from Madrid—live]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the team negotiating with the Jordanians and Palestinians; Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States; and Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, participated in a meeting this evening with Secretary of State Baker and his senior aides.

It is mentioned this evening that Israel, in its proposal to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, suggested two venues for the direct talks: al-'Aqabah and Elat, alternately. The Jordanian- Palestinian delegation has not yet agreed to this proposal. There was no talk with this joint delegation about Washington or Madrid, but the venue issue was not settled in today's talks. Israeli team members believe that the Israelis will meet the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation in two to three weeks, after the Israeli Government discusses the venue of these negotiations and decides whether to insist on al-'Aqabah and Elat, or perhaps to agree to a compromise proposal since the Jordanians and Palestinians are not prepared to hold the direct negotiations in Israel and Jordan alternately.

Palestinian Affairs

Madrid Delegation To Meet 'Arafat in Tunis

JN0211091091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 24

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—AL-RA'Y has learned from high-ranking Palestinian sources that the Palestinian delegation currently participating in the Madrid peace conference, the first stage of which was completed yesterday, Friday, will pay a visit to the Tunisian capital and meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and members of the PLO leadership.

The same sources said that a meeting chaired by 'Arafat and attended by members of the delegation will be held to discuss the results of the Madrid meetings, to evaluate these results, and to work out plans for bilateral negotiations that are expected to be held in Madrid within the next few days.

The sources expressed the belief that a feeling of complete satisfaction prevails within PLO circles, particularly following the positive reactions to the speech delivered by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, at the peace conference the day before yesterday, and the apparent coordination among the Arab delegations to the conference.

Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee met Friday morning and discussed all contacts and consultations made by the Palestinian leadership with Arab and world capitals, as well as the results of the first stage of the peace conference. The committee adopted some resolutions concerning the peace process.

The sources disclosed that the United States has made contact with the Arab countries participating in the Madrid conference, as well as the PLO. In these contacts, Washington demanded an easing of the situation by minimizing statements that might provoke Israel, especially as the latter seems to be cornered. It is feared that Israel may withdraw from the negotiations or resort to obstructing them.

The Palestinian sources said that 'Arafat will soon begin a tour of a number of Arab capitals: Amman, Damascus, and Cairo. He may also visit one of the Gulf capitals in response to an invitation the Palestinian president received two weeks ago.

Israel Coordinated Al-Husayni-'Arafat Meeting

TA0311072291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 91 p 3

[By Pinhas 'Inbari in Madrid]

[Excerpt] Faysal al-Husayni conferred Friday night with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in the Moroccan capital. Accompanying him was Hanan 'Ashrawi and two other members of the Palestinian delegation whose identities were not given. Palestinian sources told me that the group left Madrid after midnight in a special flight and returned at 6 AM.

The flight to Morocco was coordinated with the United States and Israel, the sources said. Al-Husayni planned to ask 'Arafat to tell the Syrians that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the bilateral talks whatever happens and asked that the Syrians not create difficulties. Following the meeting with al-Husayni, 'Arafat left for Damascus while al-Husayni conducted marathon meetings with Baker on the matter. [passage omitted]

'Arafat 'Was Prepared' To Greet Shamir at Talks

NC0111075791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he was prepared to greet Israeli Prime Minister Shamir if he had participated in the Madrid conference. 'Arafat asked: With whom do we make peace? Is it with phantoms? He replied: No, it is with the enemy, and I am prepared to greet him in order to establish permanent, effective, and just peace. 'Arafat denied he had read the speech that the head of the Palestinian delegation delivered at the conference. [passage omitted]

Interviewed on Shamir's Speech

LD0111165491 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Gloria del Campo in Tunis on 1 November—recorded; 'Arafat speaks in English with simulataneous Spanish translation]

[Text] [Del Campo] Top Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, in his first reaction following the inaugural speech by the Israeli prime minister commented to RNE on Shamir's negative speech.

['Arafat] I was expecting stubborn Mr. No's slogans. I was expecting Mr. No to repeat his slogans as he recently did in Strasbourg, but Shamir must understand that the bases for this conference are in accordance with President Bush's initiative, the first point of which is the exchange of peace for territory. This is clear. Shamir received an invitation at Bush's initiative, and he accepted it. Now the conference is beginning and in his first words Shamir says he wants to cancel Bush's initiative. It is incredible, such rudeness, such a cavalier attitude, that he came to the conference to repeat his slogans. He is out of place and from another age.

[Del Campo] Mr. 'Arafat, what do you think will happen if Shamir continues to maintain this position? What will happen to the peace process?

['Arafat] We will have to wait and see. It is not a challenge issued to me or to the Arabs, but a challenge to the whole international community, the two cochairmen, Europe and the United Nations. We must wait and see if there is just one standard or a double standard in international law. Shamir is refusing to comply with UN resolutions.

[Del Campo] How do you interpret the fact that Shamir stressed he was offering peace and asking for peace and then to hold negotiations?

['Arafat] Why do we have to offer peace while we are under their occupation? Did Europe offer peace to the Nazis? Did George Washington offer peace to the British Empire? They are not playing fair. The Israeli army carries out occupation, oppression, crimes, massacres, and they only come to discuss peace for the occupiers, completely forgetting the victims.

'Arafat To Visit Cairo, Amman, Damascus

NC0211151091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, 2 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt, Jordan, and Syria this week.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Hurani said that 'Arafat will meet with President Husni Mubarak to carry out the highest level of coordination

with Egypt and prepare for the coming stage of peace talks. He will do the same in the other capitals he will visit. The first stage of the Madrid peace conference will also be evaluated.

The Palestinians, he added, want to talk about holding a seven-party summit in which Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO would participate. The meeting would be held to "elevate the level of coordination and finalize this coordination on the level of the leaders, the ones who are authorized to make decisions."

Hurani emphasized that the leaders need to discuss issues that will come up in the future stages of the peace conference, which will take place in bilateral and multilateral form.

'Arafat Said To Send Fighters to Southern Iraq

LD0311170591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] PLO fighters will be sent to southern Iraq according to a military agreement signed between Iraq and Yasir 'Arafat. IRNA issued the news and quoting an informed source added: In order to suppress the Muslim opponents of the Iraqi regime, 'Arafat will dispatch fighters from Sidon to the southern part of that country.

'Arafat Receives Message From USSR's Pankin

LD0211182191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has received an important message from Mr. Boris Pankin, the foreign minister of the Soviet Union, concerning the Madrid conference on the Middle East and the bilateral talks following the conclusion of the opening sessions of the conference.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar was given this message at noon today when he received Mr. Boris Shiborin, Soviet ambassador in Tunis.

'Abd-al-Shafi Speech Presents PLO 'Case'

AU3110201291 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Tunis, Oct 31 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization has circumvented efforts to keep it out and presented its case to the Madrid peace conference in a speech Thursday by the chief Palestinian delegate, according to a top PLO official.

The speech by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of a delegation of Palestinians who are not officially PLO members, "represents the position of the PLO and constitutes the base of a just peace in the Middle East," PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AFP here. The PLO, which Israel describes as a terrorist organization and refuses to negotiate with, is banned from the Middle East peace conference that opened in Madrid Wednesday.

'Abd-Rabbuh told AFP that he believed 'Abd-al-Shafi had stressed that "this delegation is that of the PLO and that it represents all of the Palestinian people and the entire cause of this people inside and outside" the occupied territories.

"It is not possible to achieve normalization and peace before stopping Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, realizing the Palestinian right to self-determination and building an independent Palestinian state," 'Abd-Rabbuh said, summing up the PLO position.

He said these were the foundations of the Palestinian position in the peace negotiations which are expected to ensue from the Madrid conference. "We (the PLO) will also demand a halt to Israeli settlements before the start of the negotiating process," he added.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who is head of the PLO's Information Department, said the organization has called for an Arab summit grouping the PLO and the four countries bordering Israel—Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon—as well as representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union.

Such a gathering, the like of which was already held at ministerial level a week ago in Damascus to coordinate Arab positions on the Madrid conference, would seek the adoption "of a common strategy" for upcoming talks with Israel, he said.

'Abd-Rabbuh also criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's speech in Madrid, saying Shamir had "tried to ignore the cause of the Palestinian people and the existence of this people. Shamir invited Arab leaders to meet him, completely ignoring the Palestinian people, while he should have sent his invitation to dialogue to the Palestinian leadership because the basis of the conflict is between Israel and the Palestinian people," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat meanwhile has returned to Tunis, the headquarters of his organization, following a 24-hour visit to Morocco where he held talks with King Hassan II about the peace conference, informed Palestinian sources said.

An advisor to Arafat told AFP in Madrid that the PLO leader had personally edited the speech given by the Palestinian delegation.

Nabil Sha'th Links Intifadah to Talks Outcome

JN3110085991 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 31 Oct 91 pp 1, 15

["Exclusive" interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent in Madrid; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] As an adviser to President 'Arafat, how do you assess the future in light of international developments regarding the conference and the views of world countries on the Middle East and the Palestine question?

[Sha'th] We believe we have a chance to struggle for our rights, in addition to our struggle through the intifadah for the sake of those rights. We will not waste this opportunity, but will take advantage of it. We are certain about the fairness of our cause and we are certain this will lead to the achievement of some Palestinian demands. At the same time, we will struggle through political action inside the conference and escalate the intifadah and the armed struggle.

[Correspondent] Do you expect positive results from the peace conference in light of the Palestinian constants and the Israeli position on settlements, Judaization, and the principle of land for peace?

[Sha'th] We do not trust Israel or any guarantees it will give. We do not rely on Israel's intransigent position, but on the fairness of our demands and the presence of an international framework surrounding these negotiations. As I said, we do not expect anything, but we are certain we will present a just cause. If we can put an end to settlement activities as soon as possible, then this will be an important achievement for our people. If we do not, we will continue with our just struggle. I admit we will enter into difficult negotiations, but we are armed with our intifadah, and therefore, we do not consider these negotiations to be a last hope. They constitute one of the options we take to arrive at our rights.

[Correspondent] There is a call to stop the intifadah. What do you think of that call, knowing that negotiations will be strong if the intifadah continues and remains strong?

[Sha'th] I agree with you that stepping up the intifadah will give the participating delegation strength and strong resolve, and therefore, the ability to impose its legitimate conditions and demands to implement the UN resolutions and international legitimacy. The Palestinian people have confirmed they can ruin stability in the region. Therefore, when the intifadah escalates, the Palestinian negotiator's strength on the table will increase.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the collapse of the Likud government in light of the differences among its members and insistence on rejecting peace?

[Sha'th] This will be decided inside Israel, and it is not we who decide this. I do not think, however, that Shamir will stay in power if these negotiations continue.

[Correspondent] Will there be a return to the United Kingdom plan? What is your view of future relations between Jordan and the occupied territories]

[Sha'th] We do not talk about a return to the United Kingdom plan, but about a new formula for Palestinian-Jordanian relations that was established on a balanced, equal basis and is governed by ties of full coordination. We support a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and confederal ties with Jordan.

[Correspondent] If we ask you as a neutral person to compare copies of U.S. guarantees to Israel, the PLO, and the Arabs, do you see U.S. credibility and do you expect peace.

[Sha'th] We believe that the U.S. guarantees are only binding to the United States as a third party playing a role when things reach a deadlock, and we do not view them as real guarantees to achieve our rights. We do not have any guarantee that the conference will achieve anything. When we started our armed struggle, we did not guarantee we would liberate a single inch of territory. There is a margin between U.S. interests and Israeli interests. This margin allows an opportunity for a contradiction between the Israeli and U.S. interests, and it is the same margin that opened the door for the peace conference. I believe there is a historic opportunity and a strategic gap that must be utilized. The U.S. Administration no longer needs a long arm in the Middle East to protect the oil wells. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Socialist bloc, and the outcome of the Gulf war, there is no force to rival Israel in the region. Therefore, the United States' message to Israel to defer the aid means an end to the strategic role of that Zionist entity.

[Correspondent] How do you react to Shamir's decision to lead the Israeli delegation in the Madrid conference and his threats to withdraw from the conference if the Palestinian delegation says it represents the PLO?

[Sha'th] Shamir is an intransigent and vulgar man. His presence will make the conference proceedings more difficult, but will not change a thing. We have the right to set new conditions and to choose the delegation. He can withdraw from the conference if he wants to.

AL-FAJR Examines Bush Madrid Address

NC0311141891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 31 Oct 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "President Bush's Speech]

[Text] In his speech at the opening of the peace conference, U.S. President George Bush stressed the importance of territory for peace and stability in the region, consolidating U.S. support for "the land for peace" principle. He indirectly underlined our people's right to self-determination and the inevitability of fairness to us before any other party.

These remain assertions, not realities. President Bush believes that negotiations on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 will be responsible for reaching the supposed settlement without outside participation. As he put it, the United States will not impose a solution on any party, thus denuding international legitimacy of its executive force, leaving the current balance of power to

define the course of a solution and settlement among the negotiating partners. The parties' powers are unequal. We must insist on international legitimacy to control all the parties by the same legitimate yardstick that backs people's independence and implements it.

President Bush had plenty of ideas on the need to end the war, saying that the Madrid conference was the first step on the path and charted the first phase toward peace, but he gave no signal on the need to end occupation, outlined in his speech in March. His conference address did not mention the inevitablity of stopping settlement in our occupied land, and this reveals vagueness or contradiction. How can the land for peace principle be implemented when settlement-building continues, swallowing the land and threatening any good faith and any step toward peace? As President Bush said, peace cannot be built on promises. Settlement-building must be stopped immediately so that the beginning is not only promises and honeyed words.

Commentary Urges Coordinated Arab Position

LD0311202291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] O Brothers: The Arab consultations and coordination meetings that took place in the Spanish capital before, during, and after the conclusion of the opening sessions of the peace conference confirm anew the insistence of the Arab and Palestinian side on rejecting the option of unilateral or partial settlements and aspiring for a just, durable, and comprehensive peace by finding a solution to the Palestinian question, the core of the conflict with Israel, and ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab and Palestinian territories in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy that are supported and backed today by the entire international community.

The importance and necessity of this coordination is more crucial today than at any time before in order to maintain the unified Arab stance expressed in the speeches of the Arab and the Palestinian delegations at the opening sessions of the conference, the conference of peace. On the other hand, the entire world became clearly aware of Israel's rejection of the international resolutions in its refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories and in its refusal to recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people—primarily the right to self-determination and her endeavor to divert attention from the core of the conflict by skirting the Palestinian issue and the question of the occupied territories, and by demanding official recognition and peace treaties with each and every Arab party separately.

If Israel is avoiding its duty to pay the real price for peace with her attempt to postpone the discussion of the core issues by emphasizing procedural or regional matters, the Arab and Palestinian position before the conference would block the road for these attempts that are banking on the time factor. Consequently, adhering to this unified stance provides a secure guarantee for the success of the talks or at least not to divert them from their proper course, particularly as the international community supports the Arab and Palestinian stance as it conforms with international legitimacy.

When matters reach a dead end, something we hope will not happen, the Arab and the Palestinian side would not in that case bear the responsibility for the failure of the peace efforts. Rather, the party that would bear the responsibility would be the party that defies the will of the international community and continues its rejection of international legitimacy.

If the continuation of the peace efforts, including bilateral talks which began today, were necessary to create a new Middle East free from tensions, wars, and destruction, then the international community in general and the world powers' participation in the peace conference in particular would bear a historical and ethical responsibility to participate effectively in the course of the talks in order to save them from collapsing and to provide all requirements upon which their success depends—which, first of all, is Israel's abidance by all international resolutions pertaining to the conflict.

Hamas Places Religious Ban on Madrid Peace Talks

TA0211072391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has placed a ban on the peace talks in Madrid. The decision was taken at a religious court meeting at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. The decree states that there can be no negotiations over Palestinian land.

'Sages' Issue Death Threat Against Delegation

TA0311221991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] A body calling itself the Palestine Sages last weekend issued a religious edict [fatwa] sentencing to death the members of the Palestinian delegation in Madrid. Our correspondent in the territories, Amir Hay, reports that apparently supporting this body are clergy who support Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is opposed to the peace conference. In their edict, they ruled that the members of the delegation are criminals and renegades who are discussing the sale of Palestine with the Zionist enemy. Our correspondent notes that this edict is a verdict binding on every practicing Muslim. Many collaborators were murdered in the territories under such verdicts in the past. Such a verdict is also hanging over writer Salman Rushdie.

DFLP's Hawatimah Views Madrid Peace Conference

PM0111151691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 31 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [LE FIGARO] Like George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], you have doubts aboput the Madrid conference's chances of success. The PFLP is prepared to leave the PLO Executive Committee; you are not. Why?

[Hawatimah] Our position is different. We are in favor of the peace conference. We welcomed it when it was called by Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev at their Moscow meeting in late July. We voted for it at the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting in Algiers in September. We think, however, that the conditions imposed on the Palestinian people's representation (at the conference—LE FIGARO editor's note) and the limits imposed on their rights are not just.

Let us not forget that the Palestinians are the conflict's main victims. We will nonetheless continue our struggle in the field and within the PLO to ensure that our people are properly treated at the conference and that they are receive justice.

[LE FIGARO] When it confirmed the Palestinian participation around 10 days ago, did the Central Council honor the procedure decided in Algiers, or did it bow to outside pressure?

[Hawatimah] The PNC's Algiers resolutions were not honored. The PLO made considerable concessions under U.S. pressure. We fear that this policy might encourage the United States to exert more pressure on the Palestinians than on Israel in the future. Israel, however, has a long way to go before we can reach a just solution. We are, therefore, afraid that our people's right to self-determination might be sacrificed.

[LE FIGARO] Israel already controls 65% of West Bank land. Isn't the peace conference the only way of preventing the occupied territories from being completely engulfed by Jewish settlements?

[Hawatimah] James Baker used that argument several times to persuade his Palestinian interlocutors to make new concessions, notably regarding the representation of the whole Palestinian people (including East Jerusalem and the diaspora—LE FIGARO editor's note) and the very bases of the conference. We do not understand why the United States, which is so powerful and so "persuasive" on other fronts, is unable to persuade Israel to halt its colonization offensive in the occupied territories. This is a case of double standards.

[LE FIGARO] An anti-Madrid conference has just been held in Tehran. Could Iran head a new "rejection front?"

[Hawatimah] There is no question of forming a new "rejection front." It is true that Palestinian opinion is divided on the formula for the Madrid conference and that a broad section is worried and mistrustful. The powers concerned must take account of that and ensure that there is a move toward real peace not a pretence of peace which would herald new explosions in our region.

[LE FIGARO] Have you renounced the armed struggle against Israel?

[Hawatimah] We rule out any armed action against civilians, but it is impossible to halt the actions against military targets as long as the occupation lasts and as long as Israel refuses to take account of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the UN resolutions.

The intifadah is still the main form of struggle, but any form of resistance is legitimate in view of the Israeli occupying forces' obstinate attempts to aggravate the situation and disregard international opinion and the new situation in the world.

DFLP Activities To Support PLO Negotiators

LD0311200991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, led by Nayif Hawatimah, announced in Tunis that it will participate in establishing national committees for political action in the occupied territories initiated by the PLO to help the Palestinian negotiators at the Madrid conference.

The DFLP made it clear that the national action bodies inside the homeland will work in a similar fashion as the exisiting coalition within the PLO and will be under the supervision of the unified national leadership of the intifadah, being the main political arm of the organization in the occupied territories.

DFLP Urges U.S. Intervention in Peace Efforts

JN0311090291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 91 p 15

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Salih Ra'fat, official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has stated that Yitzhaq Shamir's Madrid speech reflects the hardline positions of the Israeli ultra-right wing, because it ignored the national rights of the Palestinian people, their legitimate struggle against occupation, and their sweeping popular intifadah.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added: The ideas contained in the Israeli prime minister's speech have closed all doors before international peace efforts. Furthermore, they have gravely jeopardized the peace conference, posed serious threats to the world community and the participants who also advocate peace, and brought the participants face to face with Israel's apathy and rejection of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

The DFLP spokesman went on to say: The Israeli position will remain unchanged as long as the Soviet-backed U.S. position continues to stipulate that the resolutions of international legitimacy are liable to differing interpretations, including the Israeli interpretation. He indicated that the Arab states and the Palestinian people have committed themselves to the resolutions of international legitimacy. To help advance the peace process and achieve a balanced political solution, he noted, it is essential that the world community intervene to make Israel accept the resolutions of international legitimacy. If the matter is left without intervention, however, as was stated in the Soviet president's speech, or to the parties themselves, as was made clear in the U.S. President's speech, then the Palestinian people cannot count on the success of the peace conference or on its ability to realize their legitimate national rights, he said.

Ra'fat maintained that what is required to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy is to make Israel introduce confidence-building measures, foremost being measures to halt settlements, as was stated in the EC speech before the conference, and to lay down the sword of terrorism brandished in the face of the Palestinian people living under occupation.

Concluding his statement, Salih Ra'fat said: The principled positive position articulated by the EC, as well as the Egyptian position, which has shown commitment to the content of international and Arab resolutions, give rise to optimism and require a further closing of Arab ranks and the unification of the Palestinian people's efforts inside and outside the homeland. In this way, they can wage a peace offensive in accordance with the national bases, which enjoy the unanimous support of the Palestinian people.

PFLP To Withdraw From Executive Committee

PM0111144691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 31 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, by Claude Lorieux; place and date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] Will the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] withdraw from the PLO Executive Committee because it disapproves of the Madrid conference?

[Habash] Yes. The decision will be made before 30 October. I will make this proposal to the Political Bureau which will make its decision in the next few days. It will then be up to the Central Committee to accept or reject its decision.

[Lorieux] At the Algiers Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting you criticized the PLO leadership's intention of attending the peace conference. But that did not prompt you to leave the executive committee. Why have you taken a harder line?

[Habash] The PNC approved participation in the conference provided a number of points were taken into consideration: the importance of Jerusalem's status, a halt to the Jewish settlements, and the formation of an independent Palestinian delegation. None of those objectives was fulfilled. It therefore seems to me that some people only gave those pledges to make it easier for the PNC to adopt the resolution on participation in the conference.

[Lorieux] Do you think that the procedure drawn up in Algiers has not been honored by the PLO leadership?

[Habash] That can indeed be said.

[Lorieux] Has Yasir 'Arafat behaved undemocratically in this crucial matter?

[Habash] All those who voted for participation in the peace conference at the Algiers PNC meeting are responsible. I have great hopes that over the next two or three months, Yasir 'Arafat, the Executive Committee, and many members of the Central Council (a mini-parliament comprising 100 members—LE FIGARO editor's note) will realize that Israel is still establishing settlements and that the PLO will change its policy.

[Lorieux] Some 65% of West Bank territory is under Israel's control. In the absence of a rapid, if imperfect, solution to the Palestinian problem, this trend will continue. In a year's time, Israel may control 80% or even 90% of West Bank land. Are you aware of that?

[Habash] Will the establishment of Jewish colonies halt on the day we arrive at the Madrid conference? No. So why go? The settlements will only end if this policy is costly to Israel in human life, money, and morale. That is why the Israelis withdrew from Lebanon. There is no other way.

[Lorieux] Are you therefore suggesting stepping up the intifadah and the armed struggle?

[Habash] Yes, and a complete boycott of Israel.

[Lorieux] Are you talking of armed struggle? Are you taking the risk of killing Israeli women and children?

[Habash] We will attack military installations and do all we can to spare civilian targets. But let us make things clear: We do not regard Jewish settlements in the occupied territories as civilian targets.

[Lorieux] So, if a Jewish colony is attacked, you think that the death of women, old people, and children would be a legitimate act of war?

[Habash] We will try to avoid that. As a general rule, however, we regard Jewish settlements as military targets.

[Lorieux] The Palestinian Islamic movements are very active in resistance to the peace process. Is an old secular fighter like you not likely to be swallowed up by the Muslim fundamentalists?

[Habash] I do not really believe in that danger, but even if it existed, I do not think it is the Islamic movement

which is the danger—and moreover we are cooperating with Hamas—but Zionism.

PFLP-GC Members' Communique Criticizes Jibril

LD0111202191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] A communique issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] and the national committees [not further specified] said the following:

The communique supports participation in the Madrid conference and condemns and attacks [PFLP-GC Secretary General] Jibril's statements and threats against the Palestinian negotiating delegation. It expresses dismay at the positions taken by the leaders of some factions who approved the resolutions of the National Command and who are now outbidding the PLO leadership. It supports the policy of the PLO and believes in the awareness and courage of its leadership. At the end of the communique, they most strongly reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian negotiating delegation while expressing attachment to the Palestinian constants.

Algeria

'Tens of Thousands' Demand Islamic Republic

NC0111184391 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Algiers, Nov 1 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of Islamic protesters took to the streets here Friday in the first march organized by the opposition Islamic Salvation Front since a state of emergency was lifted on September 29.

Brandishing green and white flags, the colors of Islam, they shouted at the top of their voices for the immediate installation of an Islamic republic in Algeria.

"An Islamic state now," and "Neither charter nor constitution save that which God and his prophet Muhammad have said," were among the slogans shouted by the demonstrators.

The marchers began the protest in the May 1st Square and went to the Martyrs Square, passing in front of the parliament and the headquarters of the ruling FLN party, the National Liberation Front.

Each time a police helicopter flew overhead, the protesters waved their fists and shouted "Jihad, jihad" (holy war), and "Oh Ali, Oh Abbas, the Front is Doing Well," a reference to two imprisoned front leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

The state of emergency was imposed on June 5 following a general strike called by the front which degenerated into riots and led to the arrest of a number of the Muslim party's leaders.

Further on Fundamentalist March

LD0111221391 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Today the capital was occupied with a procession organized by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which began at 1 May Square and moved to Martyrs Square. Here is Rachid Ould Mohad:

[Begin Mohad recording] A large number of the FIS militants demonstrated today through the streets of the capital in their first procession since the state of siege was lifted. [video shows demonstrators chanting religious slogans]

The procession started at 1 May Square in the center of the capital. The FIS militants began their procession and moved down Colonel Amirouche and Che Guevara Streets, meeting again at Martyrs Square. Several banners demanding an Islamic state and the release of prisoners were raised during the procession. It was well organized and controlled; there were no incidents worth mentioning nor any violations of law and order.

After gathering at Martyrs Square they listened to a sermon delivered by Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani and Rabeh [?Kebir] which touched on the domestic conditions of the FIS, the Palestinian issue, and other issues concerning the country. [end recording] [video shows marchers carrying banners and chanting religious slogans; shots of worshipers saying their Friday prayers; shots of TV cameramen accompanying the worshipers]

Official Denies Release of FIS Leaders

LD0311173591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] In a statement to APS today, the prosecuting attorney of the military court in Blida categorically denied a report published in LE MATIN concerning the release of some of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] soon. The prosecuting attorney of the military court added that it was customary for the military judiciary to grant military prisoners who had been sentenced reductions in their prison terms. The FIS leaders have not been sentenced, however, and are still under investigation.

Socialist Front Withdraws Confidence in Government

LD2310172491 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Algeria—One week after the announcement of the date of 26 December for the legislative elections, the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], one of the main opposition parties, is taking a tougher tone with regard to the prime minister. The FFS no longer believes there can be clean elections. Anne Dissez reports:

[Dissez] The FFS has decided to withdraw its confidence from the government. This was the key phrase, almost the theme of Hocine Ait Ahmed's press conference. Why this sudden increased robustness in the FFS' statements? Certain people believe it is because of the dismissal of the minister of the economy, Mr. Benissad, a member of the FFS, which Mr. Ait Ahmed explains by the government's wish to be rid of awkward witnesses in order to cook up its election cuisine in the greatest possible privacy—this is how he puts it. Between one press conference and the next, however, the FFS leader's tone is becoming ever harsher. [passage omitted]

The prime minister's entourage does not understand why this moment has been chosen [to cause a stir] and [word indistinct] the tone employed by Ait Ahmed yesterday. Mr. Ghozali immediately answered the FFS leader by proposing to him a brotherly face to face debate. All this will not prevent the FFS from taking part in the upcoming elections even if, according to Mr. Ait Ahmed, they will not be free, nor honest, nor fair. Anne Dissez in Algiers for RFI [Radio France International].

Interior Ministry, Political Parties End Talks

LD2910103191 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Algiers, Oct 29 (APS)—The consultative meeting between the Interior Ministry and the political parties

ended Monday with the promise of the minister delegate to local collectivies, Addelmadhid Tebboun, to "give a written answer to the interrogations of the political parties after consultations with the government".

A number of important aspects concerning the legislative elections were tackled during this meeting. In this context, the time limit, the presence of the candidate at the withdrawal of the participation form, the electoral campaign and the control operations were the main points discussed.

Workers Party Leader Criticizes Government's Policy

LD0211223191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The main event in political life today was a press conference held by Mrs. Louisa Hannoun, secretary general of the Workers Party, at her party's headquarters. Fatiha Jaida reports:

[Jaida] After a report on the conference of the Arab Popular Forces which convened in Baghdad and which the secretary general of the Workers Party attended, Mrs. Louisa Hannoun dealt with many points concerning the domestic political situation. She called for the abolition of the 1989 Constitution because it concentrates power in one hand, and she called for the drafting of a new constitution. She also criticized the foreign companies which will invest in Algeria, and she then criticized the agreement concluded between Algeria and the IMF. Mrs. Hannoun also discussed the 500,000 workers who will be laid off in the new year.

The upcoming elections will not change the situation in the slightest because the new Assembly to be formed will be a hostage of the policy which is currently being applied, Mrs. Hannoun claimed. Lastly, she proposed the formation of a conference to be independent of all state bodies, or the formation of a crisis government or a government of national salvation whose aim would be to prepare for clean, free, and democratic elections.

FLN Calls Session To Discuss Election Strategy

LD0411063591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpt] On 21 November the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee will hold an extraordinary session. The session will focus mainly on defining a strategy for the Liberation Front for the elections following the measures taken in regard to amending the election lists.

Colleague Djadida Khalfaoui contacted Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri [FLN secretary general] and asked him about the main points of the extraordinary session. He had this to say:

[Begin Mehri recording] The Central Committee session that the Political Bureau has decided to call to convene on 21 November will tackle one subject only—namely, the legislative elections and the definition of the strategy of the FLN in light of documents presented by the Political Bureau and the subcommittee elected by the Central Committee to examine this subject. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ghozali Seeks Governors' Electoral Neutrality

LD0111234791 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Algiers, Oct 31 (APS)—The head of government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, exhorted Wednesday the walis (prefects) to observe "the greatest neutrality" during the forthcoming legislative elections which, he said are strategic and [word indistinct] for the future of the country, Ghozali who took the floor in front of the walis, shortly before the meeting between the walis and the Ministry of Interior and local collectivities, called for sensitizing of citizens on the importance of the forthcoming legislative elections so that they can choose with responsibility their representatives. Moreover, the head of government asked the walis to impulse the local development, to listen to the concerns of citizens and make all efforts to reestablish confidence and favor social peace and stability. Ghozali reaffirmed the sincere will of the government to hold free and clean elections and asked the walis to work in this way "to preserve the credibility of the state". [passage omitted]

Ghozali, Tunisia's Ben Yahia Discuss Ties

LD2910085291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia met Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali in Algiers today. They examined Algerian-Tunisian relations and aspects of cooperation between the two countries, as well as other issues of common interest.

Habib Ben Yahia represented Tunisia at the second meeting of foreign ministers of the western Mediterranean countries held in Algiers 26-27 October.

Egypt

Official Reaction to Madrid Speeches, Proceedings

Mubarak 'Vexed' by al-Shar' Remarks

NC0411102391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] In Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak criticized Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' without naming him. Al-Shar' attacked the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David peace agreements during his speech in Madrid. Mubarak said that some at the Madrid conference spoke about Camp David, saying that Israel exploited it to annex East Jerusalem. He added: Of course, these statements have vexed me.

The Egyptian president affirmed that Camp David enabled Egypt to regain the territories Israel occupied in 1967 and that the section related to the Palestinian issue [in the Camp David Accords] offered the Palestinians a solution similar to the one now being presented them.

Mubarak on 'Expected' Differences

NC0211134591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Ismailia, 2 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the differences which emerged between Syria and Israel during the Madrid conference cannot affect the course of peace negotiations. He said these differences were expected.

In statements he made to journalists today after meeting with the judiciary and prosecution in Ismailia, President Mubarak added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is the one who started. [sentence as received] He pointed out that Shamir himself explained that he was expecting this. [sentence as received] Furthermore, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said: I was expecting such differences to emerge between the two sides during the opening session.

Responding to a question by MENA on the possibility of Egypt hosting the peace conference meetings in light of the present differences in Madrid over the venue of the bilateral talks, especially since Egypt has good relations with all sides, President Mubarak said: We have no objections to that. No one has asked Egypt to host the conference. We do not impose ourselves on others.

President Mubarak expressed his belief that there is a proposal by which the parties first would meet together in Madrid and then move to the United States after that.

President Mubarak noted that the proposal for convening bilateral negotiations, one time in Israel and another time in an Arab country, is difficult for the Arab states to accept, at least in the initial phase.

President Mubarak called on Israel to understand this situation, and said that no party should be obstinate and that a chance should be given to all parties to proceed with the discussions without any pressures.

President Mubarak said the meetings then will be held in the United States and that the important thing in the process is the cause [of peace]. He emphasized that convening the conference in Madrid or in Geneva should not impede the continuation of the peace talks.

He added: Let us discuss the issue, because we have lost much time.

President Mubarak affirmed that the parties must coordinate their positions with each other. He said: I do not believe that any delegation will be absent from the negotiations, otherwise the question then will be: What is the alternative?

President Mubarak expressed his conviction that the negotiations will continue because the entire issue is interlinked.

Responding to a question on whether it is feared that the crisis which emerged between Israel and Syria at the conference will torpedo the talks, President Mubarak emphasized that it will not lead to a crisis because we have experienced many such crises over the issue.

The president asked: Is this a crisis? One of the two accused the other of murder and the other responded by saying: You are a terrorist. Each one of them had thus explained his stand.

Responding to another question on whether his telephone conversation with President al-Asad yesterday was to contain the crisis which erupted between Syria and Israel during the closing session of the Madrid peace conference and what the Syrian president's reaction was, President Mubarak said: We did not discuss what happened between the Syrian foreign minister and the Israeli prime minister, because I do not want more problems to be created. But I discussed with President al-Asad the next step in the bilateral talks, which I hope will begin tomorrow.

Parties Cautioned on 'Immoderate Statements'

NC0411094591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Cairo dailies today highlight President Mubarak's speech yesterday during the ceremony held by Cairo University's College of Science, in which he expressed hope that the Madrid conference will attain its objectives. [passage omitted]

The papers also ran front-page stories about the bilateral talks held in Madrid between Israel and the Arab delegations to work out procedural matters connected with future talks that seek to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli struggle.

The AL-AHRAM editorial calls on all the parties participating in the Madrid peace conference to avoid all that might offend or embarrass the other parties and to cut down on all immoderate statements or remarks which might generate a general attitude against the conference.

The paper refers to the Israeli delegation's attempts to seize control of the conference activities and to emphasize that Israel will always have the upper hand.

AL-AHRAM says that the fact that the conference is being convened on the understanding that every party has the right to give its own interpretation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 means the United States will play an active role to bring the divergent and contradictory interpretations closer together.

Under the headline "A Strange Offer and a Bizarre Mentality", AL- AKHBAR's editorial voices astonishment at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's announcement that the residents of the occupied territories are living in peace and security with the Jews. It points out that Shamir is saying this when television screens around the world daily show pictures of the Israeli troops' brutality against the Palestinian citizens.

The paper says Shamir believes that peace will not be achieved unless the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Syrians, who all own the territories usurped by force of arms, agree to abandon their rights, forget their identity, and accept living under Israeli rule.

The paper adds that this strange offer reveals a bizarre mentality and a warped way of thinking which are found only in museums of the ancient past.

The paper asks if the Jews who formerly lived in Arab and Islamic countries, enjoying peace and security, would accept an offer like that made by Shamir and agree to become citizens in the Arab countries with the same rights and duties as Arab citizens. [passage omitted]

Shamir Showed 'Weakness'

NC0311100491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR comments on the statement made at the Madrid conference by Yitzhaq Shamir, Israeli prime minister and chairman of the Israeli delegation to the conference. It writes that by making this statement, which he fished out of ancient history books, Shamir wanted to turn back the clock thousands of years. The evolution of the mentality governing Shamir's conduct seems to have stopped at the time of Moses, may God's peace be on him.

The paper further says that Shamir could not lean on established international laws and legitimacy in defending the occupation and usurpation of the lands of others by force. Hence, he resorted to a principle understood only by Zionist extremists and devotees—the principle of seizing every piece of land their forefathers ever lived on over the centuries.

If we accept the principle by which Shamir defends the usurpation of Palestinian and Syrian lands, the United States would have to return all its land to "the red Indians," the paper says.

AL-AKHBAR adds that Shamir's remarks on terrorism were ineffective because he himself was a master and leader of terrorists. His hands are stained with the blood of children, women, and elderly people of Dayr Yasin and tens of other Palestinian villages. The Shamir-led Stern group blew up the King David hotel in Jerusalem, assassinated international envoy Count Bernadotte, and killed tens of British soldiers.

The paper concludes that Shamir has demonstrated the weakness of his position and proven his helplessness by failing to defend his stand and using an excuse much worse than guilt.

Egyptian Delegation Returns from Madrid; Musa Stays

NC0211220191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Members of Egypt's delegation to the Madrid peace conference returned to Cairo tonight after having attended the first phase of negotiations. Naji al-Ghatrifi, official Egyptian delegation spokesman, said that the mere fact that the conference was held is a sign of hope for the achievement of peace in the region. The conference, he said, provided the opportunity for the disputing parties to meet face-to-face and listen to each other's views. The participation of the Palestinian side in the conference was a valuable moral and political gain, al-Ghatrifi said.

Al-Ghatrifi added: As had been expected, the conference met with some problems resulting from the sharp tone of criticism, as was reported by the media. This forced the delegations, including Egypt, to double their efforts and intensify their consultations to overcome these problems. This also made it necessary for Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to stay in Madrid for another day in the hope that the conference would resume its activities and that the second phase will start as scheduled.

Musa Returns 3 Nov

NC0311221691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, returned to Cairo this evening from Madrid.

Musa told correspondents that the peace process has actually begun, and expressed hope that it will continue at a good rate to speed up the peace process and achieve the desired settlement. Musa said that many problems confronted the bilateral talks due to the nature of the problem, which is complicated. Considerable progress has been made, manifested particularly in the convening of the peace conference and the start of bilateral direct talks between the Arab delegations and the Israeli delegation, he said, adding that it is expected that agreement will be reached to move the bilateral talks to Washington. Consultations are taking place to coordinate the Arab position. He said that the Damascus Declaration states will meet on 10 and 11 November.

Foreign Minister Musa will present a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the Madrid peace conference and the contacts he held with the heads of the participating delegations.

Mubarak, France's Dumas Discuss Madrid Talks

NC0211163891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Ismailia, 2 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs [title as received], to discuss Middle East developments in light of the Madrid peace conference.

The French official arrived in Cairo last night on a short visit to Egypt.

Cairo Plans To Overthrow Eritrean Leader 'Soon'

NC0211075291 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 21 Oct 91 p 7

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned that Egyptian authorities are currently studying a number of plans to intervene militarily against Isaias Afewerki, president of the provisional government in Eritrea [title as published], who is the secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF], for his sharp criticism of Egypt and his negative remarks against Arabism and Islam. It has been learned that the Egyptian plan [as published] involves the possibility of dispatching military personnel and special forces to support the Eritrean Liberation Front—United Organization [ELF] and provide its fighters with the weapons necessary to overthrow Isaias' government.

The Egyptian authorities' anger and their plans for public military intervention for the first time in Africa follow the campaign of personal attacks launched by the Eritrean media and press organs loyal to the provisional government against the Egyptian president and his family. They also follow the sudden attacks last week against Egyptian fishing boats in the Red Sea. Some of these fishermen were abducted in international waters and were subjected to daily acts of torture. This prompted the Egyptian president and defense minister to make plans for a military operation soon.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Confers With PLO's 'Arafat

LD0211175291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred at noon today at Carthage Palace with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who stated that he was happy about having an audience with his excellency the president at a time when the Arab nation is waging a fateful and historic political, diplomatic, and information battle in Madrid in the face of Israeli intransigence.

He added that he had briefed the head of state on what the Palestinian delegation had been doing in Madrid and pointed out that there had been full coordination between the Arab delegations, a matter that has so far facilitated the waging of such a battle.

He added that his meeting with the head of state had permitted the attaining of an agreement on a number of important matters which would bolster the Palestinian position in particular and the Arab position in general, emphasizing that Maghreb participation in the peace conference is for this purpose.

The Palestinian president also pointed out that the meeting dealt with the necessary steps to bolster the Arab ranks, a matter which would make it easier to meet all challenges, to bring about a comprehensive and a lasting peace, and to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The meeting was attended by Hamed Karoui, the prime minister; Habib Ben Yahia, the foreign minister; and Hakam Bil'awi, member of the Fatah Movement Executive Committee.

'Arafat Addresses Symposium

LD0311162691 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Following President Zine El Abidine's directives, Prime Minister Mr. Hamed Karoui this morning at Amilcar chaired the opening of the International Symposium for the Defense of the Palestinian People's Rights. The following is a report by our correspondent at the symposium:

[Unidentified correspondent] Under the patronage of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Mr. Hamed Karoui today opened the International Symposium for the Defense of Human Rights [as heard] at the Amilcar Hotel in Tunis in the presence of an important number of members of the government and (political) parties and diplomats. [passage omitted]

Afterwards it was Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's turn to speak. He conveyed to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali the heartfelt greetings of the Palestinian youth, who have been carrying the stone of the intifadah. He expressed gratitude for the warm welcome accorded by Tunisia to the Palestinian institutions, as well as its efforts and pain which culminated in the mixing of Palestinian blood with Tunisian blood, an indication of Tunisia's standing with free and honorable men in the world at a time when it is hard to find a courageous position which would stand against the desecration of sanctities and the killing and the imprisonment of children in the occupied territories.

He added that we are now waging a ferocious battle as Arabs and Palestinians against a force that has no relations with history or geography; a force that was expressed by the one who went to Madrid to represent Israel when he was asserting illogical things in affirming that Jerusalem is the only capital of Greater Israel.

'Arafat added: Greater Israel means to Israel the Arab land from the Nile to the Euphrates. He continued: Arabs went to Madrid under imposed conditions in order to uncover the real face of Israel. Israel was

intransigent and arrogant, however; it demanded bilateral negotiations outside Madrid and to meet with the Palestinians inside occupied territories under its steel and fire.

He wondered: Where is the place of Palestinians within the framework of the new world order? He added that a Palestinian today is a problem from his birth to his death; he cannot even find where he can be buried. 'Arafat continued: If the negotiations do not lead to a positive outcome we will continue the jihad; the Palestinian was born to be martyred.

The Palestinian has even changed the face of powerful Rome. Spartacus, the slave who revolted against powerful Rome, was a Palestinian, and Saint Peter, who changed the face of Rome, was also a Palestinian.

He added: In the name of the child who is fighting with his flesh and blood, the intifadah that will be five years old next month will continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem's mosques and churches. [passage omitted]

Ennahdha Founder To Form Moderate Islamist Party

LD2710173191 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Maitre Mourou, one of the founders of Ennahdha movement, has announced his intention to create a new political group. This group would advocate a kind of moderate Islamism. Rida Boughezi reports:

[Boughezi] The Mourou group, which disassociated itself from the structures of the Ennahdha movement, demarcates itself in this way according to its political program from the known fundamentalist stances. The group explains, for instance, in its program that the political action it envisages does not accept the thesis of a religious state in the theocratic sense of the word, which denies the people's right to self-determination and a choice of leaders, and replaces this with absolute divine law.

Maitre Mourou and his friends also claim they oppose any partisan activity and any propaganda inside mosques. They reject violence as a means of political struggle and denounce the acts committed so far by the Ennahdha movement.

According to observers, Maitre Mourou's initiative, which seems to raise the interest of the Tunisian authorities, might lead to the creation of a new party which would be neither secular nor Islamic in the fundamentalist sense of the word. Therefore, a party of a new kind is causing understandable apprehensions, especially insofar that the new movement seems to want to submit an economic and cultural program which is said to be of great importance.

It remains to be seen whether the Mourou program will be in conformity with Tunisian laws on political parties and whether it is enough to convince the civil society. Nothing for the time being enables us give a definite opinion on this.

80 Said Executed After Coup Attempt 'Last Week'

NC0411170591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Some 80 military officers attempted to carry out a coup in Baghdad last week. Reports indicate that Muslih al-Rawi exposed the coup plan, which led to the arrest and execution of the defendants.

The authorities decorated the officers who exposed the attempt.

Saddam Swears In New RCC Members 2 Nov

JN0211104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, and Mizban Khadr Hadi today took the constitutional oath before His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the assumption of their posts as members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Izzawi, head of the President's Office.

Chairs Ba'th Party Regional Command Meeting

JN0211123391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, today presided over a meeting of the Regional Command.

During this meeting, some party affairs were discussed.

Swears in New Governors

JN0211161391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Before leader President Saddam Husayn today, the following took the constitutional oath on the occasion of their assumption of their posts as governors:

Major General 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Aziz, Karbala' governor.
Staff Lieutenant General Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim, Babil governor.
Staff Brigadier General Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih, al-Qadisiyah governor.
Staff Brig. Gen. Latif Mahal Humud, al-Basrah governor.
Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad Najm-al-Din al-Naqshabandi, al-Sulaymaniyah governor.
'Abdallah Talab 'Ajzan, Maysan governor.
Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Salah-al-Din governor.
Khalil Ibrahim Jasim, Baghdad governor.
Mundhir Nusayyif Jasim, Ninawa governor.
Karim Hasan Rida, al-Najaf governor.
Tu'mah Du'ayyif Qitan, Diyala governor.
Qa'id Husayn Humaydi al-'Awwadi, Wasit governor.
Yasir Hasan Sultan, al-Ta'mim governor.
Staff Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Ilah Hamid Husayn al-'Annaz, Dhi Qar governor.
Muhsin Khudayyir 'Abbas al-Khafaji, al-Muthanna governor.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister, and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azawi, head of the Presidential Office.

Assembly Votes To Grant Saddam 'People's Medal'

JN0211194891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The National Assembly has unanimously agreed to adopt a bill that will bestow the People's Medal on leader President Saddam Husayn, in recognition of his being an inspired leader, a son of the people, and a symbol of their pride and glory, and in appreciation of his great militant role in leading Iraq to a bright future.

In the first session of its autumn term, held this evening under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the Assembly referred the bill on the medal to its Legal and Administrative Committee to make a final draft and present it to the Assembly for ratification during the current session.

The Assembly also approved a bill abolishing amended inheritance tax law No. 64 of 1985. The bill states that the inheritance tax is no longer appropriate, and says its aim is to increase the financial power of the private sector in a constant and stable manner to bolster its positive role in Iraq's economic development.

At the outset of the session, Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih made a speech in which he stressed that the Assembly's current session comes at a critical and serious phase, not on the regional level alone but also on the Arab and international levels, and at a time when the aggressors continue to implement their conspiratorial and aggressive plots against Iraq and its glorious people.

He said the enemies of the Arab nation have taken advantage of the complicated circumstances and the weakened unity of the Arab position to plan their liquidation and aggressive plots against the Palestine question and the Palestinian people, schemes which they have failed to implement. [passage omitted]

Rebel Radio Details 2 Nov Fighting, Casualties

NC0311210391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 91

[Text] Government forces attacked the centers of the Kurdistan Front, peshmerga, and the Iraqi Communist Party-Kurdistan branch in Nojol in Karkuk Governorate yesterday. The Iraqi forces directed concentrated shellfire at the region beginning at 0500 yesterday, and Iraqi helicopters rocketed peshmerga centers.

At 0800, armored and artillery units backed by helicopters began a three-pronged attack against peshmerga

centers in Nojol. The government forces clashed with the peshmerga fighters. Fighting continued until 1600, when the government forces retreated to their positions after having faced stiff resistance from the Kurdistan Front's forces in Nojol. The battles left six soldiers dead and six others were taken prisoner. The front seized a number of mortars, several heavy- and medium-caliber machine guns, one RPG, and some hardware.

Troops Allegedly Deploy To Quell Tribe Activity

NC0211201891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The defeated Saddam regime is deploying infantry and armored forces in areas where the al-Judur and al-'Ubayd tribes live, west and south of Mosul. Iraqi opposition sources said that the tyrant's authorities have deployed infantry and armored forces in various areas of Mosul and in Tall 'Afar, Sinjar, (al-Ba'at), near the Syrian border, and south of Mosul to suppress any activity from the tribes. Sources say that the regime's fears increased when it learned that the tribes have been receiving broad support from the other tribes in the region. The sources affirmed that the tyrant's authorities have concentrated forces in [words indistinct] on the Tall 'Afar-Mosul road, fearing the anger of the tribes that have rebelled against them.

Sources also report that the situation in Mosul is very tense [words indistinct].

Rebels Say Regime Attempting To Depopulate North

NC0211200891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have reported that in a malicious attempt to depopulate northern Iraq, the defeated Saddam regime has recently distributed pamphlets urging area residents to leave the northern area. The sources said that the defeated regime elements are distributing these pamphlets with enticing promises to whoever decides to move to designated areas. Throughout its hated rule, the tyrant's regime has moved hundreds of thousands of Kurdish families to western or southern Iraqi areas. Others have been forced to move to housing complexes similar to detention camps established in remote areas. In all areas, the Kurds have been subject to strict supervision and security measures which have provoked strong reaction among international forums and human rights organizations.

'Foreign Parties' Behind Incidents in North

JN0311092591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that foreign parties are behind the recent fighting and crimes committed against Iraqi officers and soldiers in the al-Sulaymaniyah governorate.

In its editorial today, the newspaper, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, says that such acts chiefly harm our Kurdish people, who adhere to their nationalism and Iraqi affiliation and aspire to security and peace under the canvas of their greater Iraqi homeland. Such acts also jeopardize Iraq's security and entity.

The paper adds that because of this irresponsible conduct, criminal and agent elements have found an appropriate climate to fabricate riots and to bypass the national authority's institutions so as to engage in looting, attacks, and murder and to create tension to prevent the aspired dialogue between the national authority and the Kurdistan Parties Front from reaching its ultimate objective.

The paper explains that forces allegedly affiliated with our Kurdish people are seeking to create an adverse climate through irresponsible acts, using pretexts and allegations that are no different from those used by foreign powers, which continue to wager on the "Kurdish card" in order to weaken Iraq and undermine its national territorial unity.

AL-QADISIYAH says that while concerned about the dialogue, which has made major progress toward reaching an agreement to enhance the march toward autonomy, the national authority has been eager to contain such incidents and crimes, and has dealt with them with self-restraint and calm in the hope that this would lead to exposing and expelling those responsible outside the border and to revealing their stand on Iraq's security and the brotherhood and cohesion of its people.

Concluding, the paper says that Iraq's wise leadership was and continues to be concerned about the interests of its people, including our Kurdish citizens in the northern part of the homeland. Nobody else is more capable of providing security, prosperity, and stability for the entire Iraqi people. The paper stresses that seeking foreign protection, falling into the traps set by hostile forces, and wagering on the so-called Kurdish card will severely harm the entire Iraqi people, especially our Kurdish citizens.

Papers Tie Madrid Talks to Balfour Declaration

JN0211115091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers published today are unanimous in the opinion that the convocation of the Madrid conference is tantamount to a late recognition by some Arab parties of the Balfour Declaration, which was issued by a British foreign secretary to enable the Zionists to occupy Palestinian territory and expel its Arab people from it.

In articles and editorials marking the 74th anniversary of this declaration, the papers affirm that the Madrid settlement conference, regardless of the intentions of some of the participants and the circumstances under which their participation is taking place, cannot realize

for the Palestinian people the minimum of their legitimate rights to liberation and independent statehood.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Ministry of Defense, says in its editorial that the mere convocation of the conference has granted recognition of the Zionist entity and has legitimized its occupation of Palestinian and Arab lands.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that the current state of affairs in the Palestinian and Arab arenas is the outcome of the practices of fallen and treasonous Arab regimes, which have used repression and terrorism against the Arab nation's pan-Arab aspirations. Moreover, the paper adds, these regimes have persisted in their pursuit of defeatist policies, policies which caused them to forfeit Arab rights until they found themselves lining up on the side of the alliance hostile to the Arab nation and contributing to the brute aggression against Iraq—the aggression that sought to destroy the capabilities it was keeping in store for the liberation of Palestine and for enabling its people to regain their legitimate human and national rights.

The paper goes on to say: This black record, which came into being when colonialist Britain committed the crime of issuing the Balfour Declaration, along with the ensuing conspiratorial policies, were instrumental in the creation of climates conducive to the liquidation of the Palestine question—the Arab's central cause—and to the abortion of the valiant Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories. All this has been embodied in the settlement conference currently taking place in Madrid.

AL-QADISIYAH notes: Whatever results the Madrid conference can come up with, they will never be binding to the masses of our Arab nation, who will have nothing to do with them.

As for the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, it says that it was not strange that the convocation of the Madrid conference was timed to coincide with the Balfour Declaration anniversary, adding: This serves to confirm the colonialist course led in the past by British and French quarters, in cooperation with the Zionist movement, and by the U.S. Administration since the middle of this century, in cooperation with London and Paris and with the direct guidance of the Zionist movement, which is influential within American and Western political and financial quarters.

The paper adds that the scheme of imposing the Zionist entity on Arab lands and encouraging those who are implementing it no longer provides for the exclusive use of the services of old and new colonialist quarters. Right now, Arabs are being apportioned a share in realizing colonialist ambitions, the paper notes.

The paper maintains that these facts are being realized by the grandest and most evil conspiracy targeting Iraq, thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Administration and its allies and agents, regardless of whether these efforts concern direct military aggression or political and economic aspects.

As for the newspaper AL-'IRAQ, it denounces the imperialist forces' blindness to the rights of the Palestinian people and their dismal and heartrending tragedy, which has been left unaddressed for almost half a century. The paper adds: These colonialist countries have continued to profess support for human rights day in and day out, and claim that they want to build a new world order. However, they have purposely chosen to turn deaf ears to the fact that the Palestinian people are a displaced people whose homeland has been usurped.

The paper criticizes those policies that employ double standards with regard to peoples' causes and human rights, adding: He who talks of human rights must push the butcher's knife aside, refrain from the employment of double standards, and have a record that is not stained with the blood of innocent people.

Concluding its commentary, AL-'IRAQ wonders: Now that we are on the threshold of the 21st century, let us ask the following question: What has been the fate of the UN resolutions passed in favor of the Palestinian people since the Israeli occupation of Arab lands in 1948?

Paper Says Arabs Will Gain Nothing at Madrid

JN0311100591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—In an article published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH states that the results of the capitulatory settlement conference convening in Madrid are known in advance, since terrorist Shamir is known to totally epitomize the expansionist Zionist ambitions.

The paper adds: In light of the proceedings of the Madrid conference, we can say that there will be no talk of Jerusalem, the Golan, or an independent Palestinian state. Moreover, there will be no security, no guarantees about the future or international legitimacy, and no importance for the U.S.-Soviet role unless serious steps are taken to make the Zionist entity subscribe to the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH points out that Shamir and his Zionist negotiating team have won the battle to hold face-to-face negotiations with their adversaries despite the fact that they only offered peace for peace. This, the paper notes, is not strange, especially since the Zionists' history is replete with acts of flouting international resolutions. Besides, the Zionists know nothing except force and expansion, the paper maintains.

AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, notes the West's role in promoting Zionist interests, policies, and ambitions in the region and the world, and explains that the Zionists, through the Western role, have begun to rule under the facade of people like Bush,

and before him other U.S. politicians and strategists such as Kissinger and Brzezinski.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that the settlement conference convening in Madrid brings to mind the Arabs' ouster from Spain—from Granada, Seville, and Toledo. The paper adds: The Zionist entity is putting all its weight behind this conference. It only wants the parties to the settlement conference to recognize Israel's borders, ensure its security, and say nothing about its arms arsenal. This is the dream that has eluded Zionist politicians for 40 years.

Shamir Returns From Conference, Assesses Talks

TA0111141191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1302 GMT 1 Nov 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with foreign and domestic reporters at the VIP lounge in Ben-Gurion Airport upon Shamir's return from Madrid—live]

[Text] [Shamir] Ladies and gentlemen, we are returning from Madrid at the end of the first campaign of the peace process. It was clear that the conference, the ceremonial part of the process, will end today. We and you heard speeches. We heard the representatives of the various parties. There were no surprises. How should I put this? The Arabs did not surprise us.

The time has now come for the most important part of the process: the bilateral negotiations. Everyone knows it is these negotiations where things will be decided, and I hope we will reach agreements during it. Due to the reality of the region, these negotiations will be strewn with many dangerous mines, which can become serious problems. Still, now that this campaign has passed safely, more or less, there is hope that the process will continue, and that the bilateral negotiations, despite all the difficulties, twists, and complexities, will finally lead to agreements.

One can say that the great and important role of the United States was highlighted in this part of the process. The United States is investing an enormous effort to see this process lead to peace. The Soviet Union is helping it.

It is possible to state that, so far, the path of the process has been largely determined by the principles set by Israel: The Camp David accords, which were agreed on 12 years ago, for example. Our ideas that were heard during the autonomy negotiations at the time also left their stamp on the U.S. activity. Also contributing to the process were the principles the Israeli Government set down in May 1989, as well as our positions worked out in the intensive talks with the United States this year. Nevertheless, many differences of opinion between us and the other parties are still expected at the various way stations. A big problem revolves around the venue of the bilateral negotiations, which is not merely a technical problem. This is an important problem, and we will see what develops. Our men will go to the meeting on Sunday, but we do not intend to pursue the negotiations in Madrid. Deliberations will still be held, and we will see where things are heading. As we said, we did not go, and are not going, into this process with any illusions. The disagreements and difficulties are numerous, but there is no doubt in my mind that Israel must participate in this international process and should derive the maximum benefit from this effort for the sake of peace and for its own well-being. The policy that guides us is correct and just and will continue; we will act for peace while carefully looking out for Israel's most vital interests. It is on the basis of this tendency and policy that we will continue our activity, and let us hope we achieve our goals.

[Yoram Ronen, Jerusalem Israel Television] Mr. Prime Minister, I suppose that in the hours since you left Madrid you have had time to hear about U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's speech. He said that the problem of the venue of the bilateral talks has not been solved, but that he cannot imagine that any of the sides will boycott the talks because of this problem. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that even if the talks are held in Madrid he will come with preconditions. What do you think about these demands and about the Syrian foreign minister's speech—which you did not hear—in which he personally attacked you and waved a wanted poster of you for the murder of Bernadotte?

[Shamir] I cannot comment at this moment on all the points you have enumerated. We will examine and analyze them later. Indeed, I have said that the venue for the bilateral talks is the first obstacle after the end of the first phase of the process. We will see in the next few days how the process will continue.

I am not surprised by the extreme and unbalanced remarks of the Syrian representative. I do not get worked up about it, and this will not prevent me from going ahead with my activities.

[Ronen] Is our demand to hold the talks in the Middle East an ultimatum?

[Shamir] I would say it is our demand.

[Yaron Deqel, Tel Aviv IDF Radio] Sir, if the Americans pointedly insist that the talks should be held in Madrid, as it emerges from Secretary Baker's remarks....

[Shamir, interrupting] As far as I know, he did not say that; he did not. I think no such decision to hold the talks in Madrid has been made. In any event, the sides will be consulted. In other words, we will be consulted. Without us, the negotiations will not continue anywhere.

[Deqel] Mr. Shamir, why do you insist on having the talks held in our region? Why should Israel not agree to hold the talks in Washington, say? Why does it matter? You yourself have said this is not a substantial issue.

[Shamir] If you do not get carried away, I will answer you. We have explained the reasons why we insist on this point to all the sides and to international public opinion. We think it is important that the process be held in our region, that the talks be held alternately in Israel and in the Arab side—that is to say, in the country of the Arab side with which we are negotiating. Israel has experience and, I would say, a tradition in this matter. We did this during the negotiations with the Egyptians on the Camp David accords, when some of the meetings and discussions were held in Israel and some in Egypt. This was the case during the negotiations with the Lebanese on a peace agreement, when some of the meetings were held in Lebanon and some in Israel. Even long before that, the

negotiations on the armistice agreements [in 1949] and on the disengagement of forces [in 1974] were held in this region.

This is important, primarily from the political point of view. Our going to their country and their coming to ours to a certain extent creates a climate conducive to peace. Second, from the logistical and technical point of view, it is very hard for Israel to hold simultaneous negotiations with several countries. This requires that we send abroad many teams and aides; it involves communications, daily reporting about the course of the negotiations, and issuing instructions. There must be personal contacts between the decisionmakers and the negotiators. One must hear their feelings and impressions, and I cannot imagine this is possible from far away. Therefore, if we want to conduct serious negotiations—and we do—we believe they should be held in the area, and that is what we have been explaining. The Americans accept our explanation and position, but say that they must also take the positions of the Arab side into account. Syria's objections stem mainly from the fact that they do not want to come to Israel; they are afraid of giving even the slightest impression that they are making progress toward peace and greater acceptance. That is the reason behind their position. Of course, Syria pressures the other Arab parties.

[Deqel] Mr. Prime Minister, do the traditional positions voiced by the Arab speakers and the personal attacks against you and against Israel not give you cause to doubt the chances of promoting the process?

[Shamir] There is always doubt; we had doubts in the past and we will continue to have doubts in the future. There is no certainty that the Arabs are definitely ready for peace. We were not surprised. Nevertheless, we must try.

[Deqel] Sir, were you not positively surprised by anything said by the Arab speakers? Were you particularly surprised or pleased by anything?

[Shamir] Unfortunately, there was no such thing.

[Ronen] The Foreign Ministry's director general and its senior staff abruptly left Madrid this morning. How will this event affect the already shaky relationship between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry?

[Shamir] I am sorry about it. During the activity in Madrid there was full cooperation without any difficulties between the two, and I hope this cooperation will continue in the future as well.

[Unidentified CNN correspondent, in English] Your reaction today after you left the conference, when Syria's Foreign Minister al-Shar' branded you essentially a former terrorist [words indistinct].

[Shamir, in English] Well, I am not surprised. It doesn't have on me any impact. I will continue to work for peace.

[CNN correspondent, in English] You said that your team would agree to hold a round of talks in Madrid this Sunday. Did I understand you rightly—that that first round of bilateral talks [words indistinct]?

[Shamir, in English] I have agreed to it, that we will have one meeting in Madrid. In this meeting, maybe, it will be decided about the venue of the continuation of the negotiations, of the bilateral negotiations.

[Unidentified correspondent from Qol Yisra'el] Mr. Prime Minister, are there any specific Israeli proposals about the venue for the bilateral talks?

[Shamir] The principle exists: in this area. On this point, there are many possibilities. Like I said, we could hold one session in Israel and the next in an Arab country. They must not necessarily be the capitals of the countries, so as to avoid special problems. There are many proposals, and there are no difficulties involved.

[Deqel] How did the Americans react to your proposals?

[Shamir] The Americans accept it, but they have a problem with the Arabs, who do not agree to it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, will the fact that the Syrians, rather than the Egyptians, seem to be calling the shots harden the position of the other sides, which may not show up for the bilateral talks either?

[Shamir] That is just an opinion. When it comes to the Arabs, the tone is set by the extremists.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you sorry about that?

[Shamir] I am sorry about that.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, as a man who was never thrilled about an international conference, did you feel some sort of exaltation in the last few days in Madrid?

[Shamir] It was definitely not an international conference, not at all. It was totally different from any international conference ever mentioned in the past; it was a regional conference. It was a conference held over three days that did not make any decisions or force anything on the parties. Only speeches were made. I consider it a significant step because it paves the way for the important part of making peace, the bilateral negotiations. Incidentally, in 1987, I agreed with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz about such an opening for a peace process.

Peres Urges Flexibility on Venue

TA0111151591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres believes Israel should show flexibility on the question of the venue of the bilateral talks so as not to blow up the negotiations. He also thinks that Israel will ultimately agree to have the negotiations continue in Madrid. Knesset Member Peres stressed that Israel would find

itself in a very tough position if the bilateral talks are not held because of disagreement over the venue.

Meridor on Venue Dispute

TA0111151191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1250 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Shlomo Raz at Ben-Gurion Airport on 1 November—live]

[Text] [Raz] Mr. Justice Minister, you have been close to the political process from its very beginning. What is your comment on the very ultimatum-like declarations by the Americans that the bilateral negotiations will open in Madrid soon?

[Meridor] Those negotiations will open on Sunday, as stated. The question is how they will continue. We expressed a meaningful position, which points to peaceful intentions, or at least to a test for the Arabs. I hope it will be possible to reach an agreement in the spirit of the remarks we made. In trying to sum up the conference that has just ended, I would say we made a very good presentation of our position. Those who have eyes to see and ears to hear could also see and hear the Arab position as it is in fact.

[Raz] I would still like to ask you about the venue of the bilateral talks. Where will they take place? Does Israel insist that they take place in the Middle East, or will they take place elsewhere?

[Meridor] This is the position we expressed. The prime minister said this prior to his departure for Madrid. He reiterated it in his first speech as well as in his rebuttal. I know that this is what our representatives to the informal talks also said. The prime minister has just returned, and I assume I will learn from him additional details of which I am probably unaware, but our position is just and we had better insist on it.

[Raz] Can we start talking about a crisis, in view of the U.S. secretary of state's remarks?

[Meridor] One need not talk of crises, but we should be very realistic. These negotiations will be long, difficult, and complex. They will probably feature deadlocks, crises, and delays, as the gap between the parties is big. Still, we hope that sitting together in Madrid and a willingness to talk to each other, without the presence of foreigners, constitute a historic landmark. If we have achieved that, according to our terms—although we are alone on this issue in the world—it is a major achievement indeed. To our regret, we cannot expect peace to spring up tomorrow morning. There will surely be crises on the road. We will need lots of wisdom and steadfastness to conduct this long campaign, but we certainly prefer to conduct peace campaigns rather than war campaigns.

Milo—'No Problem' With Madrid Venue

TA0111130291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1247 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with Police Minister Roni Milo by Yaron Deqel following Prime Minister Shamir's arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport—live]

[Text] [Deqel] Minister Milo, what is your reaction to James Baker's latest statement that the second stage of the peace talks—the bilateral talks—are to be held in Madrid, without any guarantee that they will later move to the Middle East?

[Milo] As we have stated in the past, we attach great significance to the very existence of the direct talks with our Arab partners in the peace process. Therefore, at least as far as the first meetings are concerned, I see no problem even if they are held in Madrid. As for the future, we will look into the matter.

Milo on Cabinet Session

TA0311110191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1027 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by Rafi Reshef in Madrid "after the 3 November cabinet session"—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Shalom.
[Milo] Shalom.

[Reshef] I understand that you were updated about the Syrian and Lebanese delegations' absence from the bilateral talks in Madrid during the cabinet session.
[Milo] That is correct. The prime minister updated us on the developments.

[Reshef] Did any kind of discussion ensue?
[Milo] No. It was agreed that discussion of the matter will be held at a later stage, but we first of all want to examine all the data, the facts, and all the other relevant material. Only then will we be able to conduct a serious discussion.

[Reshef] It seems to me that the data and the facts are more or less clear: The Syrians and the Lebanese chose not to show up today. The question is whether you can foresee how the negotiations can be extricated from the bog now.
[Milo] First of all, it should be remembered that we launched negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation today. This in itself is very important, and we must continue this. As for the Syrians and the Lebanese, obviously the Lebanese are, for all intents and purposes, a satellite—a fact that has become evident to the entire world today as well. The Syrians are the problem. It is the Americans' duty to bring the Syrians to the negotiating table. It seems the Syrians are not eager to do so. We heard their speech and their positions, and we

noticed their behavior. It is, therefore, fairly clear that they are not very enthusiastic about direct negotiations with us.

The United States will try; if it succeeds, there will be negotiations. If it does not, we will persist in our efforts to make progress with the Jordanians and Palestinians in the move we are interested in promoting.

[Reshef] Were you surprised that the Jordanians and Palestinians elected to appear alone for the negotiations?
[Milo] I am not surprised; I think it is definitely encouraging. We think that a united Arab front is negative from our standpoint. That is why we objected firmly at the time to deliberations within the framework of an international conference. The deliberations must be held bilaterally between the delegations. The development so far proves the justness and soundness of this position, because if we had sat around one table at an international conference and the Syrians had refused to launch a dialogue, the others would presumably have picked up on that cue. When there are bilateral talks, the fact is that even though the Syrians and the Lebanese did not show up, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation did, and we started talking to them. This gives hope for developments and for progress, perhaps even an agreement.

[Reshef] Has Israel won points from these sessions this morning?
[Milo] There is no doubt that the Syrian conduct serves Israel well on the media level. We were aware of the facts all the time, but the world somehow refused to accept them. Today, however, I believe that it is evident to all and sundry that here is an Israeli delegation, in fact the entire State of Israel, which is highly interested in negotiations and in a sincere and serious effort to make peace, while on the other hand we see the Syrian positions, which merely try to interfere with and disrupt this tremendous effort. It is important for us that the whole world see and take note of this as well, and that we be seen in our true light as a nation that is interested in peace and that is doing and will continue to do everything to attain it.

[Reshef] Was Minister David Levi present at the cabinet session?
[Milo] Certainly. He attended the cabinet meeting, although he did not participate in the debate that followed. Still, he was there and there was nothing earth-shattering in this context.

[Reshef] Sometimes silence is also loaded.
[Milo] Perhaps. I will not try to deny this, but these are the facts.

[Reshef] I understand that they [Levi and Shamir] are expected to meet right now.
[Milo] I would also not like to address this issue. I am not sure that the meeting will indeed take place, but time will tell what the developments in this respect will be.

[Reshef] This is interesting: Was this meeting cancelled?
[Milo] I did not say that; I said that I did not know whether it was actually taking place and that only time will tell whether it was postponed or not. As you see, I can sometimes bring news from Jerusalem even to you out there in Madrid.

[Reshef] True enough, and I thank you very much, Minister Roni Milo.
[Milo] Thank you very much.

Bi'r Zayt's Nusaybah Comments on Conference

TA0111144291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 91 p A4

[Interview with Bi'r Zayt University Professor Dr. Sari Nusaybah by Yerah Tal; place and date not given]

[Text] [Tal] Have the Madrid speeches left any room for progress in the peace process?

[Nusaybah] No one should have expected to hear anything different at such a ceremonial event. Those who had any expectations were naive. In fact, each side has presented its traditional stands. The importance of the event does not lie in what has been said so far, but rather in the very fact of its having taken place. Everyone knew what Shamir and what the Palestinian and Syrian representatives would say. But now that the bilateral talks are about to begin and substance will be discussed, I hope the issues will be accorded a more serious treatment and the interlocutors will talk to each other, rather than to cameras.

[Tal] After the speeches of the Palestinian and Syrian representatives, do you believe there is still a chance to forge a dialogue and sign a peace treaty?

[Nusaybah] We must hope there is, because we have waited for this moment for many years. I know that it is important to remain optimistic in such cases, but, personally, I fear that because of Shamir's rigid stands, we will be unable to achieve the results we hope for, that is, a finite peace settlement.

On our part, we the Palestinians will do everything to promote the process, but we do not doubt that the task will be very difficult.

[Tal] You are saying you found nothing in Shamir's address that inspires hope, but Yosi Sarid, an eminent member of the left wing, has even welcomed the address.

[Nusaybah] I have heard only excerpts of the speech, and from those excerpts, I understood that what Shamir was in fact offering the Palestinian people was peace and friendship. Peace and friendship are wonderful things that we also welcome and desire, but they are not enough. We want territories, too, that is, an independent Palestinian state.

[Tal] You are disappointed by Shamir's speech, but many Israelis were deeply disappointed by the Palestinian representative's address, which referred to the

notion of the right of return and to the UN resolution concerning the partition of Eretz Yisra'el. Does this not reflect Palestinian radicalization, and are the Palestinians not afraid that by raising such ideas, you are actually terminating the negotiations before they have been launched?

[Nusaybah] I think that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks were completely misunderstood. When he spoke of the right of return, he was referring to the Palestinians' right to return to territories conquered in 1967. Also, the partition plan was not raised as a Palestinian demand, but as a historical point of reference. It was very disappointing to learn that even experienced commentators, such as [Israel Television Arab affairs correspondent] Ehud Ya'ari and [HA'ARETZ correspondent] Ze'ev Schiff, shared these misapprehensions. The Palestinian position as I know it says that an independent Palestinian state is to be established alongside the State of Israel within the territories Israel conquered in 1967.

[Tal] You speak of a demand for an independent Palestinian state, but in his address, the Palestinian representative spoke of a confederation with Jordan.

[Nusaybah] I was indeed disappointed. I, personally, and many people besides me, oppose the idea of a confederation with Jordan. I expected him to proffer the position that was discussed in consultations before his departure for the conference, which says that the Palestinians demand an independent state and will accept no alternative arrangement. I assume the issue will be hashed over when the delegation returns, before the bilateral talks are launched.

[Tal] Another controversy—the one concerning the venue—is endangering the talks. Why should the talks not be held in the region?

[Nusaybah] When the issue was raised in conversations between us, I said that, in my opinion, we should accept the Israeli demand to hold the talks between the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations here, in Jerusalem. I believe the Israelis can host them in the western part of the city, while the Palestinians can host them in East Jerusalem. It would be good for business and boost the city's tourism.

[Tal] How, in your view, do the Palestinians in the territories feel about the chances of achieving a peace arrangement?

[Nusaybah] Over the past two days, I have been driving around and meeting with many people. The prevailing feeling is a yearning for peace, although there is uncertainty, too. People are not certain that the thing they desire so much will indeed materialize. My feeling is that, in general, people are being cautiously optimistic or, rather, hopeful.

'No Choice' Over Washington Venue

TA0411063591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The assessment in Jerusalem last night was that Israel will have no choice but to accept the proposal to hold at least some of the bilateral talks in Washington. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Secretary of State Baker phoned Prime Minister Shamir yesterday to brief him on the difficulties, particularly those posed by the Syrians, and once again proposed Washington as a venue.

The Arabs persist in proposing Europe as the venue for the talks. The negotiations on this issue will continue in Madrid this morning, and if no decision is made, the contacts will be pursued.

Prime Minister Shamir will be going to the United States in two weeks to attend the general assembly of Jewish communities in Baltimore. No meeting has yet been set for him and President Bush.

'Slow Fire' Expected From Bush in Election Year

TA0111110691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 91 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Remarks About the Situation"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] From the podium in Madrid, Bush flew directly to Atlanta, Georgia, to officially launch his presidential election campaign. Hence, the fact that the conference indeed took place was for him a cause for celebration. What remains in doubt, however, is whether this success will make an impression on the U.S. citizen who must confront one of the worst economic recessions America has ever known. It is hard to pay the grocery bill in Columbus, Ohio by promoting Palestinian rights. It is a fact that the Israeli-Egyptian peace did not help Jimmy Carter. He fell because of domestic issues—inflation, gas lines, and unemployment. Bush's image as an all-American macho is a little dim now in view of the fact that Saddam Husayn is still alive and kicking.

His election is guaranteed, but with an evident decline in his popularity Bush will have to work harder during this election year. The achievements on the international scene are his, and he will not allow himself to spoil them with crises and explosions. My own wild guess is that his remark at the conference about the "time element" and the need to prepare for a long and difficult process was not mere lip service. His interest—which incidentally is Shamir's interest (naturally, for different reasons)—is to lead the Middle East peace process very carefully, without causing a real rift with Israel. Such a rift and crisis will be viewed as President Bush's personal failure, and I am not certain he can afford this. Therefore, look forward to slow fire under our backsides, and not necessarily rigid timetables, sanctions, cuts in aid, etc.

P.S. Please do not rejoice—one can roast over a slow fire as well! [passage omitted]

Shamir Briefs Cabinet on Developments in Madrid

TA0311122791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1112 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was updated on the recent development in Madrid and briefed the ministers at the Cabinet session. Foreign Minister David Levi did not meet Shamir, as scheduled, and kept silent during the session. Our correspondent Yaron Kulas reported from the prime minister's bureau:

[Begin recording] [Kulas] In the relatively short Cabinet session—less than four hours—the prime minister briefed the ministers about the Madrid conference and the preparations for the bilateral talks. Only toward the end of the session were the ministers told that the Syrian and the Lebanese delegations failed to show up for the bilateral talks with the Israeli delegations.

After the meeting Minister Moshe Qatzav said:

[Qatzav] We will not be able to force them to take part in the negotiations. We hope it will yet happen so that we can continue the process. The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation did show up, and I hope that there at least there will be progress.

[Kulas] In the session, Foreign Minister David Levi chose to remain silent; some ministers said his silence was roaring. Levi did not ask for the floor, did not present questions, and did not take part in the discussion at all.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 3 November adds that "Levi kept silent even when the prime minister praised Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu for his performance at the conference, and when Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan proposed that an information ministry be set up and that Netanyahu head it."]

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi addressed the Syrian and Lebanese behavior, first the Syrians:

[Ze'evi] They are human beasts with no manners or knowledge of international codes of diplomacy. In failing to show up for this meeting, which we did not like either, the Syrians again showed their jaws and claws, and we now know exactly who we are dealing with.

[Kulas] Minister Yuval Ne'eman said that he was against the process in the first place:

[Ne'eman] I believe that if I were there instead of the prime minister, I would have used Syria's and Lebanon's refusal to talk to us as an opportunity to close this chapter.

[Kulas] Simply put an end to the political process at this time?

[Ne'eman] As far as I am concerned, certainly.

[Kulas] The prime minister's answers to the ministers' questions will take place in the next cabinet session. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 3 November carries a recorded passage of Health Minister Ehud Olmert saying: "We knew from the onset that the Palestinians would be interested in carrying all these negotiations, and would show up regardless of the Syrian position—which is what actually took place. We suspected that the Syrians are not really interested in true peace. This became clear when the Syrian foreign minister made his remarks in a most vicious and unfair way. His refusal to talk with an Israeli journalist is yet another example of his dogmatic attitude."]

Sharon Criticizes 'Mistaken Policy'

TA0311175391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon leveled sharp criticism at Israel's political stands, labeling them as a colossal strategic failure. The public relations people have done an excellent job, said Sharon, but they were promoting a mistaken policy. Israel has helped the Palestinians and the PLO into the international arena.

Sharon added that in recent weeks Israel's stands have been eroded to the point of nonexistence, and he urged the cabinet to consider annexing Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to Israel.

Shamir Meets With Levi After Briefing

TA0311161991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Report by Yaron Kulas]

[Excerpts] The most outstanding feature in this morning's cabinet meeting was what Foreign Minister David Levi did not say there, and that he preferred not to say anything during such a major political debate. Most of the short meeting was dedicated to the prime minister's review of the Madrid conference. Shamir noted that the opening speeches by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev were objective, but the speech by the Netherlands foreign minister addressed the lowest common denominator of the EC, which he represented, and hurt Israel. Shamir made very little reference to the speeches of the Arab representatives to the conference. He settled for the brief statement that the Syrian speech was full of falsifications from beginning to end, while the other speeches repeated well-known positions that are constantly heard at the United Nations. The Madrid conference is only the beginning of the process, Shamir told the ministers. The more important stages are still ahead of us, but the very meeting of all parties constitutes important progress. [passage omitted]

After the cabinet meeting the prime minister and foreign minister held a 30-minute tete-a-tete. The two sides did not divulge details of the meeting. The foreign minister refused to answer journalists' questions upon leaving the Prime Minister's Office.

Levi Hopes Conflict Will Pass

TA0411100491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] I hope that everybody will come to their senses, that the conflict between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office will blow over, and that the Foreign Ministry will no longer be hurt in this way, Foreign Minister David Levi said this morning.

Referring to his meeting with the prime minister yesterday, he said it was businesslike and noted that further meetings will be held.

As for the proposal to set up a ministry of information, Levi said that information does not determine policy and noted that when a clear policy exists there is no need for information. Our correspondent Eyal Levi reports that the foreign minister made these remarks upon emerging from a meeting with the visiting Ethiopian minister of information.

Shamir To Meet Levi Again 6 Nov

TA0311215191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir will meet with David Levi again on Wednesday, after the members of the Israeli delegation to the bilateral talks return from Madrid. At this meeting, the two will try to iron out their disagreements. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] Next week Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is leaving for the United States for a trip during which he will again confer with President Bush, this time at the White House. Prior to the meeting with Bush in Washington, Shamir is expected to meet again with David Levi. A blackout was imposed on the tete-a-tete the two held today. It was only reported that it was conducted in a low profile and a businesslike atmosphere, despite the harsh charges Shamir and Levi have been trading.

The next meeting between the two will take place on Wednesday, and until then David Levi will have to decide whether he can reach a reconciliation and agreement with the prime minister, or whether he will begin an open struggle against him. Some of Levi's confidants, both within and outside the Foreign Ministry, believe he made a serious mistake in not preventing the return of his ministry's officials from Madrid last Friday. It cannot be assumed that Levi will continue, without getting some sort of compensation from the prime minister. The peace process is going on in the meantime, and Levi must support Shamir. It is possible that he will head the bilateral talks, or that some change will be introduced in the composition of the delegations, with a more prominent status accorded the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Minister Ari'el Sharon says that measures have been taken in the area against additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria. During the cabinet meeting Minister Sharon said he hopes they were not taken with the approval of the prime minister. Minister Sharon added that we must not continue to conduct negotiations with Syria, after the slanderous attack leveled by Syria's al-Shar' at the prime minister. In his opinion, Israel is following instructions from the United States, which did not meet its commitments and is acting against our principles of existence.

Arens Comments on Shamir-Levi Dispute

TA0311074791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Rafi Reshef from the Madrid studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Reshef] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, is it your impression that the tense relations between Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi have had an effect on the functioning of the Israeli delegation here?
[Arens] I would rather not deal with the existence or nonexistence of tension between the prime minister and other cabinet members. I am sure you will understand my reasons.

[Reshef] Yes, but the question remains: Could such relations affect future cooperation?
[Arens] I believe that when we are dealing with the prime minister and government ministries, there is no absolute symmetry. The prime minister, by nature, is the head of the cabinet, including my own ministry and myself, and we all follow his instructions.

[Reshef] Mr. Arens, allow me to go back to remarks U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made last Friday. [passage omitted] Was there anything in this didactic and patronizing tone that upset you?
[Arens] No, I do not believe we should be upset by the tone. After all, Mr. Baker did his utmost to secure the opening of this conference, which is a considerable achievement. Naturally, as one of the two parties that issued the invitations to the conference, it is his duty to guide the parties to the dispute.

We need, however, to distinguish between the parties. The Syrians and the Lebanese certainly made no effort to improve the atmosphere. For example, we lost six of our soldiers over the past two weeks because of Hizballah operations. This could not have come to pass had the Lebanese Army not allowed this activity, and the Lebanese Army takes orders from the Syrians.

At the same time, we are pursuing a policy of normalization in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. When

Baker was here on his first of eight visits, he spoke about the possibility of taking confidence-building steps, calling on us to open schools and universities. We are doing that, and there is no need to encourage us. Whenever possible, if it does not cause the level of violence to rise, we will restore normal conditions in the area as much as possible. [passage omitted]

[Reshef] Is it your impression that we made even the slightest progress toward peace at the end of the opening session?
[Arens] I believe we made more than slight progress. Such a meeting has never before taken place, because the Arabs have refused to attend. Now we have met, and I believe that a barrier has been broken. I would not say that backtracking is impossible. The Syrians might announce tomorrow that this was the first and last meeting and that they are not willing to hold direct negotiations with us, but this might not be easy for them. At the same time, I believe it was clear to the Palestinians and the Jordanians that they have an incentive to reach an agreement with us and, because the incentive exists, I assume that the talks will be held.

[Reshef] Now, to the Arrow affair. Why did the 30 October test launch fail?
[Arens] You did not hear me say it failed. We are not in the habit of reporting each of the trial launches. The Arrow is a development plan. Anyone who thought that each test would be exactly as we expected does not understand the first thing about development. If that were the case, there would be no need for tests. Tests allow us study the problems and malfunctions so that we can improve the missile and eventually reach the performance needed.

[Reshef] Defense Minister Arens, thank you.

Shelling of Hizballah Targets Continues 2 Nov

TA0211101491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] cannons are continuing to shell Hizballah targets north of the security zone in southern Lebanon. UN headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that some 200 shells were lobbed at Shiite villages in the al-Nabatiyah area and in the central sector during the night and morning hours. Some 30 houses were hit in the village of Yatar and in Qabrikha. UN observers also reported many Israeli overflights in Lebanon. It was reported from Tyre that the Hizballah sent food and medicine to some of the villages.

Shelling 'Almost Completely Stopped' 3 Nov

TA0311053691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpt] This morning in south Lebanon, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery shellings had almost completely stopped, but thousands of Shiites have not yet returned to their villages for fear of an IDF operation. [passage omitted]

Correspondent: IDF Operation Not Imminent

TA0211193091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Studio interview with military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky by anchorman David Gilbo'a—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted with footage from foreign television] [Shlonsky] Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, stressed this evening that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has not called on residents of villages in southern Lebanon to leave their homes, but he noted that the IDF would continue to take the action called for by the new situation created there.

[Gilbo'a] Is our impression correct that, perhaps due to the Madrid conference, the IDF has been more restrained than in the past?

[Shlonsky] Official sources will not confirm that, and last week they issued a statement saying that the peace conference would not keep the IDF from taking firm action against Hizballah. Cautiously speaking, I would say that there is restraint. In other words, not everything that can be done is being done, but, as you saw in the film, many artillery shells are being fired and the air force is very active. I suppose the army can do many more things, but not everything is being done.

[Gilbo'a] To the extent that you can talk about it, are there any additional preemptive actions planned for the next few hours?

[Shlonsky] My own personal assessment is that, as far as the IDF is concerned, no significant change is expected to occur in south Lebanon in the next few hours. Troops have been reinforced in the wake of Hizballah's activities in the last few days, during which six of our soldiers were killed and five were injured. This is a casualty toll that the IDF cannot live with, of course. However, there has been no reinforcement of troops that would signify a possible incursion. The Lebanese Government and the Syrians have been agitating and charging that an IDF operation is imminent. I say that, at least within the next few hours, there will not be any IDF operation. [passage omitted]

Official Denies IDF Ordered Villages Vacated

TA0211162791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Excerpts] UN observers have told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that thousands of residents today fled the villages north of the security zone for fear of an impending IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attack. Correspondents in Sidon report that Shiite villages in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area have been vacated. The Voice of the South, General Lahd's radio station, has in the last few hours repeatedly announced that all those people living

in the vicinity of terrorist bases should leave their homes at once since a fierce artillery attack is imminent. [passage omitted]

Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, has denied reports that Israel has called on local residents in south Lebanon to evacuate their villages. Nevertheless, the adviser pointed out, the IDF must continue to maintain security along the northern border, especially in light of the Lebanese Army's failure to prevent Hizballah's terrorist activities.

Arens Interviewed on Lebanon Operations

TA0311061691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Defense Minister Arens.
[Arens] Good morning.

[Einstein] Did the Lebanese threat to quit the Madrid talks lead to a halt in the shelling of south Lebanon?
[Arens] No, there is no such connection, and I do not even know that such a threat was made. I do not believe one was made, just the opposite. You reported that the Lebanese Government will not step back from the next phase of negotiations.

[Einstein] Yes, the Lebanese foreign minister did make such a remark. Has there been a U.S. appeal to Israel on this issue?
[Arens] Look, I would not like to report to you about appeals, made or not, unless they are made in public. We, however, have a policy with a single basis: to ensure the safety of our troops in south Lebanon and secure our residents in northern Israel.

[Einstein] The shelling continued for six consecutive days. Why was it decided to stop it?
[Arens] Again, you are asking me about operational issues, such as when we start or stop, or did we stop at all. You will certainly forgive me and understand if I refuse to answer your question.

[Einstein] Has the nature of the Israeli operation in the area been determined by the fact that the peace talks were beginning at the same time, or is there no connection between the two?
[Arens] I told you that our only concern is security. There will be no compromise on this.

[Einstein] Sources in Lebanon have accused the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] of acting to evacuate Shiite villages north of the security zone. Is this true?
[Arens] North of the security zone are Hizballah men. Their activity has increased over the past several weeks. The Lebanese Army is in the same area, and if it acts to make sure that Hizballah is not able to operate, than there will be no problems with the IDF. Nevertheless, in the absence of a Lebanese Army operation, and for as long as Hizballah continues its activities, it will not be allowed to operate undisturbed from this area, despite the fact that it is north of the security zone.

[Einstein] Knowing the ability of the Lebanese Army, can we expect it to stop Hizballah?
[Arens] No. The problem has arisen because it is not even trying. There is no need to portray Hizballah as some giant army that the small Lebanese Army cannot deal with. We see no effort on their part to confront the Hizballah.

[Einstein] If indeed the Lebanese Army does not take action, is a ground operation by the IDF beyond the security zone being considered?
[Arens] Do you really expect me to update you on the radio about our operational plans? We will do everything that is needed for the sake of security.

[Einstein] Do you believe that what has been done so far, the heavy shelling north of the security zone, is the way to do things, and has it helped?
[Arens] Primarily, over the past few days there have been no active Hizballah operations. I would not directly link it to our activity, but there is no doubt that such activity is needed.

[Einstein] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you.
[Arens] Thank you.

Paper Says Security More Important Than Talks

TA0311124691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 91 p 7

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Security Is More Important Than the Negotiations"]

[Text] It is obvious to the defense authorities that increased activity by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] north of the security zone, as reported from Lebanon, might serve Arab propaganda at the Madrid conference.

It seems that the possibility that Syria and Lebanon might use this activity as an excuse to put off their participation in the bilateral talks with Israel was also taken into account.

Nevertheless, the defense establishment—with the prime minister's permission—decided to do whatever was necessary, including taking various preemptive offensive measures, to prevent Hizballah and the Palestinian organizations from continuing the wave of attempted attacks that began on the eve of the Madrid conference and are aimed at sabotaging the political process.

By doing so, the Israeli Government is taking military steps called for by the situation on the ground, while at the same time signalling to the participants in the Madrid conference, and those sponsoring it, that the physical safety of its civilians and soldiers is its top priority.

Already at the start of the political process Israel made it clear that at no stage would it hesitate to exercise its right to self-defense, including the right to take all sorts of preemptive offensive actions.

On the basis of reports coming in from Lebanon, it seems that the IDF and SLA are using a strategy called "a buffer" in professional jargon. That means that the civilian population in the villages giving refuge and aid to Hizballah cannot have a normal life. Villagers in a 10-km-wide strip north of the security zone must choose between aid to the terrorists with continued IDF and SLA shelling and other activity or halting the aid to the terrorists and permitting a return to normal life.

That is why the IDF and SLA activity is ongoing and does not stop even after the attacks cease. Israel used this "buffer" policy in the Jordan Valley in the late 1970's, and in the final analysis it led to peaceful coexistence on both sides of the Jordan River.

The type of activity being adopted now by the IDF and SLA has two additional aims:

—To make it clear to the Lebanese Army that if it does not fulfill its role and prevent terrorist activity against the security zone, the IDF will neither take it into consideration as in the past nor hesitate to attack areas where it is deployed.

—The shelling and air activity leads the civilian population to lock themselves in their homes or to flee. That means that whoever is milling about outside is a terrorist and the IDF and SLA can hit him.

Sari Nusaybah Leads Peace March in Ramallah

TA0111172191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The large peace rally held in Ramallah this afternoon ended some time ago. The participants, headed by Dr. Sari Nusaybah, staged a peace march through the streets of Ramallah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces tried to stop the march, but allowed it to take place after a long argument. The Israeli army declared Ramallah a closed military zone, but foreign correspondents and television crews filmed the rally and transmitted the lengthy argument between the marchers and the security forces.

Gaza Curfew Imposed During Conference Lifted

TA0311075891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip on the eve of the Madrid conference was lifted this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that some 40,000 Gaza Strip laborers left for work in Israel and that the strip is quiet.

IDF Bans All Peace Marches in Territories

TA0411111391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 91 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yosef Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources have issued an order prohibiting marches in the territories either for or against the peace conference. Marches in which hundreds of locals handed olive branches to IDF patrols have taken place. Some of the marches ended in clashes between supporters and opponents of the Madrid conference from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

According to IDF sources, the marches were banned because many local inhabitants were injured in internecine clashes. [passage omitted]

A demonstration of support for the participation of the Palestinian delegation in the peace process was held in Hebron yesterday afternoon. It was organized by the PLO's mainstream organizations—Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the 'Abd-Rabbuh faction, and the communists.

After the rally, which was held in the Hebron offices of the DFLP's trade union building, the marchers walked through the city center clutching olive branches and chanting slogans of support for peace. Stones were hurled at them on Faysal Street and at a nearby IDF unit. A brawl between the demonstrators and their opponents ensued, and the IDF dispersed the gathering and the large crowd of spectators. A curfew was imposed on the city center.

IDF Opens Fire on Villagers; 17-Year-Old Killed

TA0111154591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 91 p A11

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] A 17-year-old from the village of 'Awarta in the West Bank was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fire during an incident in the village yesterday. The force encountered local villagers, one of whom possessed a knife. The IDF force called on the locals to stop but they began to throw stones. The force opened fire, which resulted in the death of the youth. His body was taken to the Forensic Institute for examination. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of the incident.

Many stones and Molotov cocktails were thrown in the territories yesterday. The violent clashes between the supporters and opponents of the peace conference also continued. [passage omitted]

A torch march was held in the 'Isawiyah neighborhood in north Jerusalem yesterday evening. The several dozen youths who organized the march were dispersed by the police, who did not need to resort to force.

An IDF officer was slightly injured by a stone in the village of 'Awarta. He was taken to a nearby base for treatment. Additional IDF forces arrived at the site to conduct searches. Another IDF officer was slightly injured in the eye by a stone thrown in the Tulkarm refugee camp. He was treated at a nearby base. [passage omitted]

An Israeli truck driver was slightly injured by stones hurled at his truck in the Janin area. [passage omitted]

In the Nabulus District, two masked people were slightly injured. An IDF force on routine patrol detected them and ordered them to stop, but they began to flee. The soldiers began chasing the two and wounded them in the shooting that ensued.

Palestinian sources reported that three residents of the Khan Yunus refugee camp were wounded. Official military sources confirmed that three residents were wounded in the camp while rioters were being dispersed.

A commercial strike was staged yesterday in the Gaza Strip, except for in the Khan Yunus area. The town of Gaza was subject to a curfew.

IDF sources reported that the Army has increased its activity in the territories in view of the increase in Molotov cocktails and stones being thrown over the past two days. [passage omitted]

Minister Rules Out Separate Treaty With Israel

JN0211081691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif Thursday said Jordan had always sought to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on United Nations Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy.

In an interview with a 15-member journalist delegation representing the German media, Mr. al-Sharif said Jordan had from the very beginning supported the international efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and had supported all initiatives aimed at finding an honourable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The minister added that the peace Jordan seeks to achieve is one based on the land for peace principle and on the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem. The kind of peace Jordan seeks also to achieve is one which recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

Mr. al-Sharif called on the international community to pressure Israel into respecting and observing the UN resolutions and noted that the goal of establishing peace is a global responsibility which should be shouldered by all countries of the world.

He said that Israel should be aware of the fact that keeping the land it occupied in 1967 will never bring peace to it. What brings peace to Israel is the respect of international legitimacy and returning the occupied territories to their legitimate owners, he said.

He added that Jordan had never thought of holding a separate peace treaty with Israel because it believes that such unilateral or bilateral treaties do not bring about genuine peace. Jordan seeks to achieve a just and durable peace for all, taking into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, al-Sharif said.

He pointed out that there are two levels of peace, the official peace, which is reached in accordance with treaties and accords concluded between states, and the general peace, which is of the people's making. The official peace, he said, is the kind of peace that Jordan is trying to achieve in Madrid.

But, the second kind of peace, the general peace, hinges on Israel's attitude and practice towards Arabs. If Israel is willing to be a peaceful state, to abandon its feeling of racial supremacy, and to integrate into the region, then it may find a secure place in the region. But should it pursue its current path, then it will not achieve general peace.

Mr. al-Sharif warned of the grave consequences should the Madrid conference fails.

"The conference is a golden opportunity which may not come back again and if this opportunity is allowed to pass without being grasped, then the whole region will plunge into a new wave of violence and wars," Mr. al-Sharif said.

Answering a question on the Arab boycott of Israel, Mr. al-Sharif said no single Arab country can end this boycott unilaterally because it is a collective Arab responsibility. He reaffirmed that the Arab boycott of Israel will continue until Israel commits itself to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and returning them to their owners in return for peace.

Answering a question, on the Jordanian economy, the minister said it was facing some difficulty caused by the Gulf crisis. He called on the European countries, including Germany, to help Jordan overcome its financial and economic difficulties. He also voiced hope that relations between Jordan and the Arab countries of the Gulf would be restored to normal, noting that there were some encouraging signs in that direction.

Mr. al-Sharif called on the Arab countries to rise above the differences caused by the Gulf crisis, and to build a new Arab order capable of dealing with the latest international developments.

The head of the journalist delegation, which Friday wound up a five-day fact-finding tour of the region, stressed that peace and freedom are essential for all countries all over the world. He said that his country would help Jordan pursue its peaceful efforts and voiced hope that the efforts being made to establish peace will succeed.

Abu-Jabir Travels to Euro-Jordanian Talks

JN0211155491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir arrived in Brussels today to chair the Jordanian side to the Euro-Jordanian Cooperation Council meetings, scheduled to begin in the Belgian capital on Monday [4 November].

The foreign minister is expected to meet with several European foreign ministers, including his British, Italian, Portuguese, and Belgian counterparts, in addition to EC Chairman Hans van den Broek, foreign minister of the Netherlands.

Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz also arrived in Brussels today to take part in the meetings. Finance Minister Basil Jardanah is also expected to arrive later today for the same purpose.

The planning and finance ministers will hold several meetings with EC officials to discuss issues on the agenda relating to various aspects of cooperation between Jordan and the EC.

Government Calls For Implementing Resolution 425

'Nothing To Negotiate' With Israel

NC0111181291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has reiterated Lebanon's rejection of any bilateral negotiations with Israel, because we have nothing to negotiate. He pointed out that what is required is implementing Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal. This could be done through the Lebanese-Israeli Armistice Committee.

Al-Husayni added that there is a mechanism for implementing Resolution 425 and Lebanon is ready to discuss this, but not the origin of the issue. Speaker al-Husayni disclosed that the U.S. letter of assurances to Lebanon had originally stipulated bilateral negotiations, but we refused this at the time and accordingly, this paragraph was taken out of the letter.

Al-Husayni added: We have the Armistice agreement, Resolution 425, and U.S., Arab, European, and international guarantees in our hands. So what good is it for us to give up what we already have in our hands and place it in the market of probabilities, that is, the conference, the results of which are uncertain? He added that the Cabinet's meeting yesterday confirmed what he is saying.

Al-Husayni was speaking during a news conference in his office in 'Ayn al-Tinah. At the beginning of the conference he denied reports propagated by some media organs on differences with the prime minister.

Israel's Lubrani Lists Conditions

NC0211073091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, believes that the natural and logical solution for the Lebanese-Israeli problem is to sign a peace agreement.

Lubrani regretted that Lebanon is not free and democratic at this stage. He said the major problem at present is security in the Lebanese villages and towns adjacent to the border.

Lubrani said: To reach the desired security, the terrorist organizations must be disarmed and security arrangements must be reached with Israel before Resolution 425 can be implemented.

'Full, Unconditional' Implementation

NC0311204191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Madrid peace conference, has said that during the bilateral negotiations Lebanon will demand the full and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. The bilateral negotiations started at 2024, Beirut time.

'Withdrawal From South' Demanded

NC0411085991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has emphasized that Lebanon will not relinquish an inch of its territory, a drop of its water, or one iota of its dignity. He said: We did not go to Madrid to sell and buy, but we went there armed with the resolutions of the international legitimacy's highest authority and to say to them: implement Resolution 425. The enemy's withdrawal from the south is our first and last demand, and if he refuses, we all will turn into resistance fighters. He said Lebanon's survival can be achieved only through the unity of its ranks and position and through coexistence.

Discussing the peace process, the dissolution of militias, and the collection of arms, the prime minister denounced the militias by saying that they have falsified the people's will and have pointed the gun at the heads and hearts of the people and deceived the world.

Karami said Lebanon needs development and reconstruction, adding: We will build this country, not matter how much suffering and deprivation we must endure, and we will not leave a single town or village without electricity, water, telephones, and roads.

U.S. Backing Urged

NC0411110791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has stated that the talks between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations must not go beyond arranging the implementation of Resolution 425. He added that if the Israelis reject the Lebanese demand, the subject will be closed, and the Lebanese delegation will suspend the meeting.

Speaker al-Husayni called for continuing to call on the United States to implement its efforts on behalf of Lebanon. He revealed that, at the beginning of 1985, Washington told him and late Prime Minister Rashid Karami that it would not link the withdrawals of the Israeli and Syrian Armies from Lebanon, adding that the 17 May agreement is dead and buried.

Top Officials Holding Negotiations in Syria

Al-Murr, Syria's Khaddam Confer 2 Nov

NC0211123791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] According to exclusive information available to our radio, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr is currently on a visit to the Syrian capital, where he is holding talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Murr is expected to return to Beirut this evening.

Al-Hirawi To Meet al-Asad in Latakia

NC0411084391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] According to an exclusive report to the Voice of Lebanon, President Ilyas al-Hirawi left a short time ago for Latakia to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Madrid conference and the outcome of the collective and bilateral negotiations are on the agenda.

UNIFIL Soldier 'Seriously' Injured in Mine Blast

NC0111191791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL], announced that a member of the Nepalese contingent was seriously injured when an anti-personnel land mine exploded under him in Yatar last night. Yatar is adjacent to the security strip in the south.

Hizballah's al-Musawi on Madrid Conference

NC0211082691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has asserted that Arabs have nothing to gain by attending the Madrid conference because they were forced to attend through American influence and hegemony.

In an interview with our radio, his eminence added: Therefore, we will find that only Israel and America stand to benefit from this conference. Evidence of this is found in the words of the enemy's prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, who emphasized that there is no room for talks on the land issue.

His eminence said: Essentially, Palestine and the Palestinian people's rights never cross the American mind. Evidence of this is found in the history of America, which never has and never will recognize the justness, lawfulness, or clarity of the Palestinian cause.

His eminence noted that America is well aware it is doing injustice to this cause and its claimants, whether they be the entire Islamic nation or the Arab region.

The Hizballah secretary general stressed that the secret to the resistance's success and victory lies in its dependence on Islam. He explained that the resistance's youth pursue Islam as the mujahidin's driving force against the Israeli enemy. Islam is the foundation, he stressed. He added that the resistance now represents the will of an entire people. When we saw children and the elderly alike taking part in the march of anger in Beirut yesterday, we saw in them the will of the people taking form. These are the ones who support the Islamic resistance, he said.

He remarked that the worst crime that can be committed against the resistance is to try to restrict it with rumors and propaganda through the mass media. He added, however, that the people find no alternative to the resistance, which is the only approach.

Fadlallah Decries Israeli Claims at Talks

NC0211084091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has denounced the Zionist claims at the Madrid conference and Shamir's call for peace when the sons of the intifadah in Palestine are being killed and the inhabitants of the southern villages are being attacked and displaced.

Criticizing the United States and the Soviet Union, he invited them both to go to south Lebanon to see with their own eyes how brutal the Zionists are.

Addressing Arab delegates to the Madrid conference, he said: You are living in [word indistinct] and pressures and intimidations will encompass you and America and the Soviet Union will [words indistinct] in the face of anyone who objects and put further pressure on you.

His eminence said: We rejected the Madrid conference, not because we are terrorists or extremists, but because we are realistic. America believes in might rather than in logic and it pressures all the delegations so Israel can continue as the strongest.

Allamah Fadlallah praised [word indistinct] Arab delegations' speeches and the Lebanese delegation's speech at the conference, which rejected and denounced the occupation. He urged them not to relinquish the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, and south Lebanon or make concessions on water. Surrendering to American pressure only will bring further concessions, he said.

Fadlallah said U.S. President George Bush's remark that this stage requires concessions means that Arabs should take off the fig leaf.

Addressing the Lebanese officials, he called on them to be wary of the American role in Lebanon and Madrid and warned them against a new game similar to Anwar al-Sadat's in Lebanon.

Israelis Order Evacuation of Southern Town

'Severe Tension' in al-Nabatiyah

NC0211104391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The Israeli Army has given the inhabitants and officials of Kafr al-Rumman an ultimatum to evacuate the town. The Israeli Army sounded a siren from a position on al-Turrah hill at 1030 today and using loudspeakers ordered the inhabitants and elements of the legitimate authorities there to evacuate the town

within 12 hours. This was followed by rounds of machine-gun fire, which prompted an exodus from the town.

Our southern correspondent has reported that a state of severe tension prevails in the south, particularly al-Nabatiyah. He also reports that the South Lebanese Army has tightened security measures at all the crossing gates along the security strip.

The correspondent adds that Hizballah last night fired a number of Grad missiles at the security strip from its positions in 'Atshit and al-Qusaybah. Approximately 30 shells were fired at 'Ayn al- Tinah this morning, wounding one person. The town's population, estimated at 1,000, fled fearing further shelling.

Amal on 'General Alert'

NC0211123691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1201 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Here is a newsflash:

Minister of State Attorney Nabih Birri has announced a short while ago that the Amal Movement has declared a general alert in its ranks on the side of the Lebanese Army, which has mobilized its forces to confront the Israeli Army in Kafr al-Rumman. Minister Birri stressed that the Lebanese Army will not stand idle and that the Amal Movement will defend the homeland alongside the Army if necessary.

Concluding his statement, Birri said: When any Israel enters our areas, it will be over our bodies.

Shiite Council Urges UN Meeting

NC0211124091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1154 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Just in from the editors room: We received a short while ago a report that the Higher Islamic Shiite Council has called on the Lebanese Government to request the Security Council to hold an extraordinary and urgent session to put an end to the enemy attacks in southern Lebanon. The Higher Islamic Shiite Council said that what is going on in the south is a genuine war against Lebanon and its people by the Zionist enemy.

The Higher Islamic Shiite Council held the five major powers responsible for the Israeli attacks against defenseless inhabitants throughout southern Lebanon.

Israel Asked To Halt Attacks

NC0211202991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Israel has continued its aggressions against the peaceful villages in the south, and Lebanon has intensified its contacts to stop the aggression. Reports indicate that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker contacted Moshe Arens, the enemy's war minister, and asked him to stop the Israeli operations in the south.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami made a brief statement on the issue, saying:

[Begin recording] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has informed us that the Americans contacted him and briefed him on its talks with the Israeli side in which it asked Israel to stop all military actions immediately because the peace process would not tolerate these types of actions. The Israeli side promised to stop the operation.

When we contacted various military sectors in the south, we learned that the military operations have reached a very low level. We ask our brothers who moved out of their villages to get ready to return to your homes. Thank you. [end recording]

Conference 'Freeze' Requested

NC0211121591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1144 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Government officials are following up the situation in the south. The higher Defense Council is scheduled to convene this afternoon and a cabinet session is expected to follow either today or tomorrow.

According to exclusive information received by the Voice of the People [VOP] Radio, a contact has been held between the Lebanese and Syrian leaderships and President Ilyas al-Hirawi has contacted Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and asked him to freeze all measures concerning the Madrid conference until attacks on the south have been halted.

The VOP information indicates that there is an intention to call a Security Council meeting and that Buwayz discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the Spanish capital.

Finally, we note that [words indistinct] in the Israeli Knesset Muhammad Mi'ari said today that all circles expected Israel to do anything to distract attention to (?block) the way to the other party and to undermine the Madrid conference. Mi'ari viewed the attacks on the south as an extortionist method tantamount to barbarism.

Birri Denounces Israeli Acts

NC0211154791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Amid the tension created by the Israeli aggression today, a large number of Kafr al-Rumman inhabitants challenged the occupation forces' ultimatum to leave town by returning and staging a sit-in in the town's mosque.

Minister Nabih Birri, who came to Kafr al-Rumman to express his solidarity with its inhabitants, called on the people to stand fast to prevent the implementation of the Israeli occupiers' decisions and plans to empty the south. He called on the state to shoulder its responsibility and stressed that Israel wants Lebanon's waters, saying: Israel took us to the Madrid conference as the result of

the government's stupidity. We have started to feel the pressure on the pretext of the resistance and claims that a device exploded inside the border strip.

Minister Birri warned that if the plot succeeds in Kafr al-Rumman, it will move tomorrow to Habbush, then to al-Nabatiyah, then to Jibshit and Jazzin until the entire southern area is under Israeli control.

'Emergency' Defense Council Meeting

NC0211210691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, after a meeting of the Supreme Defense Council in Beirut on 2 November—recorded]

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council held an emergency meeting under the chairmanship of his excellency the president this evening in which the prime minister; the acting foreign minister; and the ministers of defense, finance, interior, and economy participated. The Army commander, the deputy chief of staff for operations, the director of intelligence, and the Foreign Ministry secretary general were also invited to the meeting.

The council reviewed developments in the south in light of the continuing Israeli escalation, which reached its climax this morning. After listening to the military details, presented by the Army commander and his aides, the council adopted a number of recommendations to strengthen the Army's capabilities and increase its level of readiness and on supporting the popular steadfastness.

[Question indistinct]

[Karami] You of course know that the Supreme Defense Council's decisions are secret. It is understood that the situation in the south is [word indistinct] and Israel, by its formidable pressure through shelling and threats, is trying to make the people of the south leave their towns in an attempt to create problems for the Lebanese state. They are attempting to empty the south of its people and thereby create problems. The Supreme Defense Council's decisions, therefore, focused on strengthening the Army's capabilities in the south and on entrenching the people in their villages and [word indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Karami] The Army commander's orders are clear on this issue: The Army will confront any attack and will remain in its positions.

[Question indistinct]

[Karami] We are all aware of capabilities and we can [words indistinct]. We always say that we prefer to die [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Karami] First of all, from last night to 0100 today, we were in touch with the foreign minister and our ambassador in.... [changes thought] and [words indistinct] on this subject. If the Israeli acts of aggression escalate, we might call a UN Security Council meeting. Furthermore, the foreign minister's statement today was emphatic and frank. He said that if this aggression continues, he might not attend the meetings [words indistinct] because we naturally [word indistinct] peace in order to implement Resolution 425 and [word indistinct] the south. The aims of the escalation [words indistinct] are known. If they believe that it will make us [word indistinct] the resistance, we have already made a decision on this matter: As long as the occupation continues, the resistance will continue.

[Question indistinct]

[Karami] When it becomes necessary, we will call the cabinet to meet [words indistinct]. We are all on alert. The situation now is fluid. If it becomes necessary we will call the cabinet in, of course.

Army To Reject Israeli Ultimatum

NC0311083491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Knowledgeable military sources have stated that as of late last night the army command had not been informed of any advance by Israeli forces in the areas included in the Israeli ultimatum. The military sources denied news agency reports that Israeli armored forces had entered the eastern suburbs of Kafr Rumman and areas outside al-Nabatiyah.

These sources confirmed that the army command had issued clear orders to the military units deployed opposite the Israeli forces in Kafr Rumman and al-Nabatiyah to reject the Israeli ultimatum issued at 1030 yesterday calling on the inhabitants to evacuate the area within 12 hours. The army units were ordered to take the necessary measures to defend their positions, protect the region's inhabitants, and to confront any offensive military operations with the appropriate weapons. The army command adopted a series of measures to protect the army units deployed in the area.

Southern Towns Shelled 3 Nov

NC0311093691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] 'Ayn al-Tinah and 'Ayn Bu Siwar came under artillery fire this morning. There were no reports of casualties.

REUTER reports that Israel has scaled down its shelling of fedayeen targets in the south. A security source said guns fell silent last night after five consecutive nights of fierce bombardment.

Villagers Return to al-Nabatiyah

NC0311124591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] According to the latest security reports from southern Lebanon, cautious calm prevails in al-Nabatiyah and neighboring areas after artillery shelling stopped last night. However, Israeli ground and air activity continues.

The report adds that the inhabitants of Kafr Rumman have begun to return to their village in response to appeals by government officials.

Reinforcements Sent South

NC0311131891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] According to security reports from the south, the al- Nabatiyah area has been under intermittent bombardment since noon today.

The National Defense Ministry's information department has released the following statement: Following the attacks and fierce bombardment of the southern villages in al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al- Tuffah by the Israeli forces and their agents, within the context of its national duty and to implement the political leadership's decision to maintain security and defend the land and people, the army command has taken the necessary military measures to reinforce the military units stationed on the front lines with additional mechanized forces, which left Beirut at dawn today. The army command has issued its clear instructions for units to reject the Israeli ultimatum to evacuate villages, take all measures to defend their positions and protect residents, and confront any military operation with the appropriate weapons.

Israelis End Siege

NC0411083991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Israelis have lifted their two-week siege on the towns of Yuhmur in al-Shaqif and Arnun.

According to security reports received from the south this morning, the roads and crossings in the Sidon area are open. The Kafr Hunah-Marj 'Uyun and the al-Nabatiyah area crossings, except the Hasbayya-(Marj al-Zuhur) and Kafr Tibnit crossings, are open in both directions.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Assess Madrid Peace Conference

JN0211150291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad last night received a telephone call from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during which they assessed the first stage of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid and discussed matters related to the subsequent stages of the conference.

Commentary on Shamir's Attempt To 'Sabotage' Talks

JN0211161091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli prime minister's attempt to blow up the Madrid conference and the peace process has not surprised anyone who is conversant with developments in the Middle East.

For, prior to his arrival in the Spanish capital, Shamir reiterated his well-known no's, which can be summed up as no to peace. Shamir spoke twice at the Madrid conference. On neither occasion did Shamir mention, however, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, nor Israel's willingness to withdraw from the occupied territories and halt settlement activity. On the contrary, he considered Palestine, in its entirety, Israel's alleged land, adding to it the occupied Golan. He also falsified historical and geographical facts and turned them upside-down, accusing the Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular, of aggression against the land of his alleged ancestors and forefathers. Shamir was also in tears over the Israelis who are, in his view, victims of Palestinian terrorism, and over Arab Jews who refused to immigrate to Israel after all that they discovered about the suffering of Eastern Jews in Israel.

We do not want here to reply to Shamir's myriad of falsehoods, given that most of them are exposed. It must be pointed out, however, that his claim concerning the possibility of having recourse to international legitimacy and justice to justify Israel's aggressive acts causes amazement and wonder.

The United Nations and its agencies and international organizations have issued hundreds of resolutions over the past years condemning Israel's criminal policies and practices and calling for delivering the Palestinian people from the grip of occupation and enabling them to attain their legitimate rights.

Many of these resolutions annul the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and consider settlement-building an aggressive act, calling on Israel to stop this activity. Zionist officials of various leanings have only shown disdain and disregard for all these resolutions.

The United Nations, in contrast, has not issued a single resolution condemning Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, or the Palestinian people. How can the United Nations condemn the victim and side with the aggressor! We greatly wish to see Shamir and other Israeli officials side with international justice and legitimacy by making public at the Madrid conference their readiness to implement UN resolutions and to work seriously to establish a comprehensive, just, and enduring peace in the Middle East. They have yet not done this, however; they will not do it now. For they are captive to an expansionist Zionist ideology and morbid Torah dreams. The evidence of this is that they are uprooting Soviet Jews from their original homeland and transporting them aboard planes to the occupied Arab territories, which are alien to them inasmuch as they are alien to these territories, so as to teach them how to kill Arabs and seize their property and means of livelihood.

Shamir was also in tears over the suffering of the Lebanese. It is truly strange that Shamir should weep over the Lebanese after they have regained their unity and well-being. It is truly strange that Shamir has not coupled his words with deeds by withdrawing from southern Lebanon, implementing Resolution 425, and stopping the savage Israeli shelling of Lebanese cities which has continued for five days, especially since the Lebanese issue is not linked to the Middle East problem. No, Shamir rejects withdrawal, clings to his guardianship of Lebanon's resources, and alludes to reviving the May agreement, which was canceled by the Lebanese because it represents a blatant aggression against their sovereignty and clearly mortgages their future and fate.

En route from Madrid to occupied Jerusalem, Shamir was asked if he intended to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He replied: Why should Israel withdraw from its territories? The truth is that these words sum up Shamir's position; the Israeli prime minister did not come to Madrid to seek peace, but to destroy it.

The Israeli foreign minister was excluded from the negotiating delegation for fear that he might have peaceful intentions. Shamir also intentionally insisted on transferring the negotiations from Madrid to the Middle East, specifically to Israel, so as to sabotage the peace process because he realizes that the Arabs will not agree, under any circumstances, to conduct the talks in Israel.

Establishing an enduring peace in the Middle East does not demand all these complications and theatrics, on which Israel insists. Nor does it demand hard, arduous negotiations over many years, as Zionist officials say, had they had a sincere desire to achieve peace and a just, comprehensive settlement.

Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulate the exchange of land for peace and ensuring Palestinian rights. The Arabs are serious about achieving a just peace whereby they restore their occupied territories and usurped rights. The best evidence of this is their collective participation in the Madrid conference and their

sincere endeavor to make the conference succeed and create a bright future for Middle East nations.

Israel Seeks To 'Torpedo' Talks

JN0211072991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today the TISHRIN newspaper affirms that Israel does not want peace. Rather, it seeks to torpedo the Madrid conference and render it void of its substance, bases, and ingredients.

TISHRIN adds: Shamir has shown evidence of the Israeli evasion of the peace process both in his speech before the Madrid conference and in his reply to the speeches delivered by the Arab delegations to the conference. He was insolent enough to demand everything without even pledging to give anything in return. He wants security, land, and peace, and he asks the Arabs to be content with capitulation.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Arab responsiveness in general, and Syria's keenness to make the conference a success and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region in particular, have caused Shamir to fall into a trap. Otherwise, how is one to explain his provocations at the Madrid conference? Moreover, how is one to understand his proposals and claims, which overlook facts?

After asserting the firm principles espoused by international legitimacy with regard to the Middle East peace process, TISHRIN says: If Israel maintains this position, which is hostile to international legitimacy and apathetic toward peace, then the United States and the USSR, along with the EC, will undoubtedly be urged to dot the I's and cross the T's and hold Israel responsible for wasting the historic opportunity granted to the Zionist enemy leaders to abandon their expansionist ambitions. This is especially true since Baker identified the three elements that are necessary for the success of the Madrid conference and the peace process, namely land, peace, and security. That is, there is going to be no retreat from a commitment to the land-for-peace principle, despite the fact that Shamir is adamantly opposed to this principle, that he insists on holding on to the territories, and that he rejects Resolutions 242 and 338.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's al-Hirawi for Talks

JN0411112891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Today at 1100 President al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Paper Says Nation's Commitment To Lebanon 'Firm'

JN0311121791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—In an editorial today the newspaper TISHRIN affirms that the brutal Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon aims to create tension in the region, to expand the occupied area in the south, and to drag Syria into a battle which would jeopardize, and even terminate, the peace conference before it begins its next phase.

The paper indicates that this aggression is a response to the nationalist Lebanese demand for the implementation of Resolution 425. The paper says: Through its brutal and criminal conduct, Israel aims to add the south to the Golan Heights and Jerusalem within the so-called "land of Israel." This not only constitutes a stab to the current peace efforts but also a challenge to the international community and international legitimacy and its resolutions.

The paper explains that this challenge is represented by the fact that the aggression came after the Lebanese pledge to maintain security in the border areas if the Israeli withdrawal takes place. This indicates that it is a premeditated Israeli intention to undermine the conference and exacerbate the situation in the region so as to pave the way for fresh wars by the Zionist entity to seize new Arab territories, especially because it is pinning great hopes on the emigration of over 2 million Jews from the Soviet Union and East European states.

Concluding its article, the newspaper says that if Israel wishes to remind the Arabs that it and peace cannot be combined, it must also remember that Syria will stand alongside Lebanon as it did in the recent past, that the Syrian commitment toward Lebanon is brotherly and firm, and that both countries' security and destiny are one. Israel must also remember that there will be no going back on this commitment.

India

Foreign Secretary on Talks With Pakistan

Non-Proliferation Treaty Opposed

BK0211151491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, has reaffirmed India's opposition to signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In an interview to a Pakistani newspaper before his departure for New Delhi, Mr. Dubey said both sides made very good progress in discussing the entire range of the disarmament issue during the recent foreign secretary-level talks.

Referring to the Kashmir issue, Mr. Dubey said Pakistan was interfering in the internal affairs of India by inciting violence and being a party to terrorism in the state. He said he was hopeful of a settlement of the Siachen issue.

Normalization 'Distant Dream'

BK0311105791 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Om Narain commentary]

[Text] Although the fifth round of talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan, Mr. Muchkund Dubey and Mr. Shaharyar Khan, have concluded in Islamabad, the question of normalization of relations between the two countries remains a distant dream. For the last several decades, especially since the Simla agreement, India has been asking Pakistan to solve all outstanding problems through dialogue by sitting across the table. Despite the fact that there have been five rounds of talks between the two countries, the basic issues have remained untouched, hovering on the periphery. Ever since the establishment of Pakistan, it has never reconciled to the idea of India being a secular country, and from time to time it has been fomenting trouble on the borders, both in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The frequent border clashes have led Pakistan to mount three concerted attacks in 1948, 1965, and 1971, only to suffer defeat.

Although there are several issues to be settled, the main problem is Pakistan's attack on our border with the latest arms and ammunition procured from other countries—that is, China, the USA, and other sources, and running a proxy war through aiding and abetting terrorists on Indian-bordering states. The more India extends Pakistan its hand of friendship, the more belligerent Pakistan becomes. For the last several years now it has been actively helping the ultras with sophisticated weaponry to attack India's long border. The real solution would therefore lie [as heard] only after Pakistan ceases its nefarious activities and comes to the negotiating table in a spirit of cooperation and a sincere desire to have good-neighborly ties with India.

In the fifth round of talks the two sides covered a wide range of bilateral issues of mutual interest. The joint press statement issued at the end of the talks says: The two delegations have decided to exchange and coordinate information regarding their nuclear installations and facilities in pursuance of their agreement on the prohibition of attack to be concluded before 1 January 1992. But discussion on the border issue and ban on the use of chemical weapons could not be completed and the two delegations decided to have the next round of talks—the sixth in number—in New Delhi. The other subjects to come up at the forthcoming talks include ban on chemical weapons, construction of Tulbul navigation project, boundary dispute in the Sir Creek area. But, it is expected in the meanwhile Pakistan will realize that a congenial and peaceful atmosphere is essential for any meaningful dialogue.

Only a fortnight back the prime ministers of the two countries had met at the CHOGM [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] meeting at Harare where they had reiterated that all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan should be solved in an amicable manner. But, despite India's best intentions, Pakistan again launched a major offensive on India's military base in the Kargil sector of Kashmir using heavy mortars and shells. This proves that Pakistan even refuses to honor the agreement arrived at 18 and 19 October when the Army officers of the two countries had met and had decided not to attack the military bases of either country.

As the reports indicate, Pakistan is even planning to send 6,000 ultras trained in subversives activities in the bordering states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to keep the proxy war alive. It would be in the interest of the people of both the countries that Pakistan and India solved their bilateral problems through dialogue without creating further bitterness. The international scenario has undergone a sea change and even countries with different political, social, and cultural backgrounds have been drawing closer to one another. If Pakistan could only stop sending infiltrators across to Indian borders, all other problems, including Siachen issue, use of chemical weapons, construction of Wular project, and demarcation of boundary in the Sir Creek area, would be easily solved. This will also help developing trade and exchange of cultural delegations to end the bitterness created so far between the people of the two countries.

Russia To Continue Supplying Arms

BK0211041091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The Russian Republic is to fulfill all the Soviet obligations in arms supplies to India. The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, told Russian parliament members that the Republic will continue defense supplies to countries including India. Mr. Yeltsin's statement has ended the speculation about the future of Indo-Soviet

cooperation in defense in the wake of the changed political scenario in the Soviet Union.

Fact-Finding Committee Visits Ayodhya Shrine

Demolition of Temple Denied

BK0111132491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The fact-finding committee of Rashtriya Ekta Abhiyan [national unity campaign] which visited Ayodhya yesterday says the disputed complex is completely in the hands of a few score of antisocial young men in spite of a large police presence. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, the members of the committee said either the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government's writ does not run in Ayodhya or it is in collusion with these elements.

In separate statements, the CPI [Communist Party of India] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have condemned the attack on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple mosque] structure at Ayodhya by the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] and Bajrang Dal activists.

The BJP president, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has denied demolition of any temple in and around the disputed site in Ayodhya. Talking to newsmen in Patna, he said rumors are being spread under what he called a planned conspiracy to confuse the people.

Meanwhile, in the temple town of Ayodhya security measures have been further tightened in view of yesterday's incident. The Faizabad units of the Babri Masjid Action Committee and Muslim Majlis and some political parties have organized a dharna [sit-in demonstration] in front of the additional commissioner's office in Faizabad to protest against yesterday's incident at Ayodhya. They are demanding the handing over of the disputed complex to the Army for proper security. Some shops remained closed today in the Chowk area of Faizabad city on the call given by these organizations.

'Miscreants' Storm Shrine

BK0111162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has condemned the Ayodhya incident of yesterday when some miscreants stormed the disputed shrine and hoisted saffron flags atop it. Speaking to newsmen in Bhopal today, he said all those involved in the incident have been arrested and an inquiry is on to ascertain their identities. He said his government is responsible to ensure full protection to the disputed shrine and no laxity will be allowed in this respect.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, J.P. Mathur, says yesterday's incident at Ayodhya is being blown up out of proportion by certain interested parties for their desired objectives. According to him, the incident only confirmed the U.P. Government's sincerity and ability to maintain law and order. Mr. Mathur in a statement also alleged that some pseudosecularists tried to provoke disturbances in Ayodhya, but they failed in their attempt.

Several political parties and leaders have condemned yesterday's incidents in Ayodhya. The Congress-I has criticized the BJP for what it called adopting double standard in tackling the situation in U.P. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. C.P. Thakur, said that while on the one hand it did not allow the secular forces to enter the disputed area, it connived with the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] and the Bajrang Dal in hoisting flags atop the mosque and damaging the premises of outer walls. Mr. Thakur said the Congress-I also condemns the attack on the fact-finding team which had gone there for peaceful purposes. He appealed to all secular and democratic forces to lend their support to the National Integration Council meeting in New Delhi tomorrow to resolve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. Mr. Thakur welcomed the assurance of the U.P. chief minister given to the union home minister to protect the disputed structure. The party general secretary, Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, however charged that the state government is violating the assurance.

The AICC-I [All-India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, has condemned the attempt made by the Bajrang Dal to damage the Babri Masjid structure. In a statement issued in New Delhi this evening, he said that the BJP government of U.P. has totally failed in fulfilling its promise to protect the mosque.

The civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, in a statement said that instead of providing relief to the victims of the earthquake, the BJP government in U.P. is concentrating all its energy and resources on the Ayodhya issue. [passage omitted]

The Samajwadi Janata Party general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, has demanded the resignation of the state chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, for yesterday's incident.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has urged the prime minister to lead against what he called the fascist BJP, VHP, and RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] combine. He also called upon the Muslim community to strengthen the secular forces and not to be provoked.

The former home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has alleged that the center is abdicating its constitutional obligations to uphold the rule of law in regard to the Ayodhya issue. [passage omitted]

The convener of the U.P. unit of the Bajrang Dal, Mr. Vinay Katiyar, MP, alleged that yesterday's incidents in Ayodhya were a part of the conspiracy to malign the state government and to defame the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Hindus To Build Ram Temple

BK0211151891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] today organized a meeting to condole the death of those who were killed in police firing in Ayodhya on this day last year. Speakers at the meeting renewed their determination to construct the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, the Faizabad unit of Babri Masjid Action Committee, Muslim Majlis, and other political parties continued their dharna [sit-in agitation] for the second day today in front of the commissioner's office in protest against Thursday's incidents in Ayodhya.

Iran

Habibi Claims Nuclear Weapons Report 'Big Lie'

LD0411095791 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Iran is for peaceful use of nuclear arms as it has repeatedly announced before and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is aware of Tehran's nuclear activities, said the government spokesman here Monday.

In his weekly press conference, Hasan Habibi who is also the first vice-president, termed as a "big lie" the allegations made by the Western mass media that Iran was trying to develop nuclear weapons. He stressed that Tehran is principally against employment of destructive weapons, whether atomic, microbiological or chemical.

He said Iran proved during 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war that it is abiding by its policy of non-proliferation of destructive weapons despite its capability to produce such weapons and despite its repeated exposure to Iraqi chemical attacks. Habibi further reiterated Iran's conviction that the region must turn into a zone free of destructive arms.

The government spokesman however underlined that the fresh propaganda move by the Western media against Iran was aimed at undermining the significance of the just-concluded Tehran international conference on Palestine.

On the Iranian leased cargo vessel seized by Turkey two weeks ago, Habibi told reporters that the Cypriot vessel carrying cargo for Iran was still being held and that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had sent a message to his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal expressing surprise at the illegal move. President Ozal however has promised to take steps towards release of the vessel, he said. Habibi expressed hope that the issue would be solved soon believing that the move was unlikely a Turkish act but rather an outside conspiracy aimed at harming Tehran-Ankara ties.

Karrubi Calls Madrid Talks 'Treacherous Move'

LD0311111291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpts] During today's open Majles session, Majles Speaker Mehdi Mahdavi-Karrubi honored 4 November as a day of God. He spoke of the day's three important events: the exile of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his noble soul; the martyrdom of a number of combatant pupils, and the occupation of the U.S. den of spies. [passage omitted]

He Noted U.S. plots against the Islamic revolution and termed the Madrid conference a treacherous move against the Islamic world designed to make the Muslim people suffer and said: The only path for the salvation and liberation of Palestine is the struggle of the Palestinian people and the strengthening of the intifadah. [passage omitted]

Lack of Results From Madrid Talks Noted

LD0311141891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1054 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Greetings, dear listeners. Four days have passed since the start of the first stage of the so-called Madrid peace conference. Israel's bilateral talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation began according to schedule one hour ago, Tehran time. Syria and Lebanon, which had agreed in principle to continue the talks, will probably join in the direct talks. The bilateral talks are to take place in three different venues in Madrid. Sensitivities and points of contention between the negotiating sides require long periods of time and numerous sessions, albeit a possible strong resolve among the protagonists to solve the dispute—not to mention the fact that all sides had agreed to negotiate under overt and covert U.S. pressure and threats.

The conference's first phase, which had more of a ceremonial aspect, was not devoid of tension. In spite of extensive U.S. and Soviet efforts to stage an orderly conference, a verbal battle broke out between the Israeli and Syrian delegations, subsiding after various exchanges of accusations leveled against one another. The resumption of such discords and contentions, however, is to be expected at the start of the principle hagglings in all the consecutive stages of the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Israel's negotiations today are focused merely on the adoption of decisions regarding the manner and the schedule of the talks. The Israeli delegation spokesman said, in yesterday's final hours, that its delegation will return to occupied Palestine on Monday. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Shamir described the land of Palestine as a land without any inhabitants in which only the Zionists hold the right to establish a government, calling on the

Arabs to recognize officially Israel's existence and abstain from mentioning the occupied territories in future talks. The Zionist regime's prime minister construed the acceptance of the participating Arab and Palestinian delegations in the conference to sit at a negotiating table, one side of which occupied by the Zionists, as a step towards their recognition of his regime. He called on all of them to end the holy war against the Zionists, accepting Israel among them.

Such excessive demands by the Zionist regime, which is not only a struggle against the Arab world, but an acknowledgment of hostility with the world Muslims' aspiration of liberating the entire Palestinian territories, have failed to receive any response in Madrid. The Arab delegations, in declaring their positions, focused on Resolutions 242 and 238, which call for the liberation of a small section of the occupied territories and Israel's withdrawal from parts of the territories occupied by the Zionist regime since the 1967 war.

Syria's specified demand on Israel entails Israel's evacuation of the occupied territories in the Golan Heights, occupied by the Zionist forces in 1967, and annexed to the remainder of the occupied territories in 1981. The Palestinians' demand, according to a speech by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, speaking in the name of the Palestinians, was that the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which include eastern Jerusalem, should come under international protection. The Jordanians, too, did not propose any specific demands—other than emphasizing the need to implement Security Council resolutions on Palestine.

A problem that arose immediately after the conference's first stage was the Zionist regime's insistence upon the conference's continuation in the Middle East countries. Ultimately, it was agreed that at least the first session of the second stage would be held in Madrid. In the opinion of observers, Israel, by making such a demand and conceding to the minimum [as heard], intends to claim some concessions from the negotiating sides and the United States, which is considered the conference's principle architect. The same observers do not envisage a bright prospect for the second stage of the talks, on the strength of the obstinacy displayed by the Madrid conference participants in declaring their positions. Thus, the staging of the conference's third phase continues to be shrouded in doubt and uncertainty. The United States and Israel favor holding the conference's second phase—that is, negotiations about various economic, security, and cultural issues of the region—15 days after the start of the second round of talks, between Israel and the Arab countries.

Meanwhile, with Syria's categorical opposition to that proposal, it seems unlikely that the Arab countries, who wish to move according to similar positions, will come to an agreement with the U.S. and Zionist regime, in the forseeable future. In this connection, the optimism of the U.S. secretary of state, who considers a few months time limit as sufficient for concluding the second stage, gives a clue about U.S. covert diplomacy aimed at putting pressure on the Arabs and Israel in order to balance their demands.

In any case, with the end of the first stage of the U.S. peace conference between the Arabs and Israel and the large-scale opposition to it from the Islamic world, they will certainly face numerous obstacles in bilateral talks with the Arab governments, primarily the difficulty of facing their people's public opinion. If the people, in the short-term and in the shadow of the superiority gained by the United States in the oil war, have so far failed to display any serious reaction, it should not be construed as their sustained silence in the face of any agreements with the Jerusalem-occupying regime.

Anniversary of U.S. Embassy Occupation Noted

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Students

LD0311114491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] On the occasion of 4 November, the National Day of Struggle Against World Arrogance, a group of students from various parts of Tehran, as well as theology students and scholars of the town of Baneh, together with various strata of people, congregated at the Jamaran mosque to once again display their allegiance to the supreme ideals of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

At the gathering, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to 4 November, the day His Eminence Imam Khomeyni was sent to exile and termed that day as a turning point in the history of the Islamic revolution, saying: His eminence the imam saw the approval of the capitulation as an act of treason against the independence of Iran and against Islam and made a historic speech. He cried out in protest and announced that the United States was ruling the dignity and honor of the Iranian people. He, therefore, directly attacked U.S. interests in Iran. It was for that reason that Washington's agents, in a pre-planned move, decided to send his eminence to exile.

In another part of his speech, Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the importance of the occupation of the former U.S. den of spies and said: That action smashed the straw-like strength of the United States in the world. Islamic nations realized that being inspired by the anti-arrogance spirit of the Iranian people, it is possible to attack U.S. interests.

Special Program on 'Den of Spies'

NC0411081591

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0530 GMT on 4 November announces a special program on the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. "den of spies" in Tehran: "Power, Holy War, Martyrdom" with a

history of events since 1952 leading to the Islamic revolution—when the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry was announced—and the subsequent occupation of the U.S. Embassy.

The commentator continues by saying that the shah brutally repressed the people's uprising, but "could not curb the fervor of the people." Details of incidents at Tehran University, when the shah's forces fired on students, and on Imam Khomeyni's exile to Turkey are noted, interspersed with brief excerpts from old speeches by Khomeyni and Khamene'i for which no dates are given.

The special program then carries excerpts from a book by former White House Chief of Staff Hamilton Jordan.

The correspondent interviews some people in Tehran; one of them speaks about the "struggle against the powers of world arrogance."

The program elaborates on the impact of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy on the Carter administration and regional countries such as Pakistan and the Persian Gulf states.

Some students are interviewed on the significance of the occasion, which they say is a "continuation of the revolution", "the cresting of the people's indignation against U.S. domination", and that "the occupation of the U.S. den of spies by student followers of the imam's line combated this colonialist posture and numerous embassy documents were exposed to the people." The interviews were followed by another segment of an old Khamene'i speech marking the occasion.

Demonstrations, Rallies Described

LD0411120591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] On the day of God 13 Aban [4 November], the National Day of the Struggle Against Global Arrogance, the Muslim and combative nation of Islamic Iran, through mass participation in today's glorious ceremonies, once again demonstrated its firm resolve to confront America's conspiracies. Simultaneously with other regions of the country, in Tehran the various strata of the people, the students and the pupils, at the invitation of the Council for Coordination of the Islamic Publicity, marched from predetermined starting points toward the former U.S. den of espionage.

The students, pupils, and other strata of the people carried posters with pictures of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the leader of the Islamic revolution His Eminence Ayatolah Khamene'i and marched in organized groups toward the U.S. den of espionage, chanting various slogans. While chanting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel," they condemned the U.S. conspiracies including the U.S. conference in Madrid and stressed the need for continuing the struggle against global arrogance.

At 0930 this morning, when Taleqani Avenue was packed with the people between Vali-ye 'Asr Street and the former U.S. den of espionage, the cry of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" echoed everywhere.

The students of Tehran University, too, left the university in organized groups and attended the ceremonies marking the National Day of the Struggle Against Global Arrogance. The Muslim and combative students, in expressing their hatred for conspiracies of the world-devouring America against the Muslim and meek nations of the world, called on Muslims worldwide to make the struggle against global arrogance the focal point of their struggles.

During today's glorious ceremonies the U.S. and Israeli flags were set ablaze and an effigy symbolizing imperialism was hanged. Various organs, establishments, organizations, societies, and religious-political groups, which had already declared their readiness, attended today's ceremonies and one of the students read out the resolution of the marchers, which was endorsed by the participants in the rally.

The resolution of today's ceremonies marking 13 Aban in Tehran says: This eternal word of Imam Khomeyni, may Almighty God be satisfied with his deed, says: "Our number one enemy is America." It is printed in our minds, and we have pledged to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i we will maintain our readiness to confront all bullies, particularly the United States.

The resolution condemns the U.S. conference on Middle East peace in Madrid, reiterating the need to continue the struggle until the destruction of Israel and the return of the oppressed people of Palestine to their original homeland. It calls on the Muslim nations to rise up and relentlessly and continuously struggle against the sinister objectives of the arrogant powers in order to halt U.S. plundering.

The resolution also stresses the need to pay greater attention to the deprived regions of the country. In the concluding articles of the resolution, referring to the need for maintaining unity and solidarity in society, the marchers call for an overall and practical struggle against diverse conspiracies of the camp of global arrogance and for mobilization of the nation, particularly the students and pupils, to achieve the formation of 20-million strong army.

The ceremonies continued with a speech by the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC]. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Hasan Rowhani, the secretary of the country's SNSC explained: Global arrogance is trying to separate the leader from the people, but the people are continuing to stand united. Speaking of the various occasions being marked on this day [also coinciding with the anniversary of Khomeyni's exile in 1963 and student demonstrations against the shah in 1978] and of the former regime's crimes before the Islamic revolution, he said: The former regime, that killed and jailed 'ulema and believed it could stop the

popular movement, used its opportunities to pass the Capitulation Law [law giving judicial immunity to Americans].

He said that only the people's vigilance and wakefulness in various arenas will be able to foil those plots and added: Global arrogance uses a variety of conspiracies to attain the levers it wants to possess. Our students, who were in the vanguard of the struggle and the revolution, conquered the American den of spies. That conquest marked the start of the breaking up of the superpower idol and the exposure of the nature of groups which harped on Western democracy.

Mr. Rowhani condemned recent developments connected with the solving of the Middle East problem and stressed: Today, with the end of the cold war and the disintegration of Soviet power, the first conspiracy is the weakening of the political power of Muslims in the world, and it has begun these days with the slogan of disarmament in the Middle East. They want to shatter the splendor and greatness of Muslims and to take humbled Muslims to the negotiating table.

The SNSC's secretary condemned the Madrid conference and said: What the Americans have announced is not peace; it is merely having Muslims sit at the negotiating table under Israeli supervision and under conditions dictated by the United States. It is not only the Islamic Republic of Iran which opposes such a gathering; rather, all public opinion in the world of Islam opposes the conference.

Students Protest Turkey's 'Hostile' Attitude

LD0411104891 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Over 300 university students Monday gathered in front of the Turkish Embassy here to protest the recent "hostile" attitude of the Turkish Government towards Iran. The demonstrators had earlier taken part in a ceremony in front of the 'den of spies' (former U.S. Embassy), to commemorate the 1979 seizure of the embassy by the students following Imam Khomeyni's line.

The students chanted slogans in protest to Ankara for the seizure of a Cypriot-flagged Iran bound cargo ship. In front of the Turkish Embassy, the demonstrators read a resolution calling on the Ankara government "to respect the will of the Muslim Turkish people."

The Turkish Government was also urged not to blindly obey the policies of the 'Great Satan' (the U.S.) and warned Ankara to "fear the wrath of a revolutionary people and not to provoke the sentiments of the students." The protesting students also called on the Turkish Government to release the Muslim Iranian students imprisoned in Turkey. The gathering then peacefully dispersed upon the advice of the security forces.

Shortages Lead to Unrest Throughout Country

NC0311124091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0645 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Reports indicate that on 31 October and 1 November a great number of antiregime demonstrations and marches took place in the deprived areas of Tehran and other cities, namely Kermanshah, Borujerd, Khorramabad, Reza'iyeh, and Shahr-e Kord. This comes at a time when the high price of general commodities and the shortages of bread and other foods continue and rationed goods have been unavailable in many areas for several months now. People who have been unable to receive their rationed goods are demonstrating in front of the centers distributing these goods and are marching and shouting violent slogans against regime officials.

During the past few days clashes between armed strugglers and Revolution Guards continued in many cities in Kordestan and Sistan va Baluchestan Provinces and in the areas around these cities, as well as around Reza'iyeh and Shahpur. In these clashes it is said that the casualties among the Revolution Guards is high because of the native strugglers' supremacy. Even though orders have been issued to prevent the publication of pictures and news on Revolution Guards who are killed, the number of announcements of memorial services in the obituaries show that a large number of the regime's suppressive elements have been killed recently.

The same report states that more and more Revolution Guards and soldiers are deserting every day to avoid involvement in armed clashes.

The heavy burden of high prices, food shortages, water and electricity cuts, inflation, unemployment, administrative corruption, the embezzlement of people's wealth by the clerical mafia, continuous pogroms, and the violation of human rights—all of which have led to unrest and protests during the past months and recent weeks—continue to give rise to antiregime demonstrations and marches in Tehran and other Iranian cities.

A report indicates that on 31 October antiregime demonstrations took place on Soleymaniyeh and Teymuri Streets in Tehran. In view of the intensity of the demonstrations, agents of the special guards fired at the people who were chanting antiregime slogans and used tear gas. When the people fled, it was said that plastic bullets had been used, which could only wound the victims.

While these antiregime demonstrations were taking place there was more unrest at Tehran's Industrial College. Antiriot agents surrounded the college. They became violent and there were clashes; the students chanting violent slogans became destructive.

People in Kermanshah demonstrated in front of the Kermanshah governorate on Thursday, 9 November [as heard] to support the demonstrations and protests in Sanadaj and Paveh and to protest the declaration of martial law in these two cities.

Reports indicate that shortages of fuel—oil, gas, gasoil, and motor oil—in many of Iran's cities lead to long lines of people and demonstrations. Oil and motor oil are sometimes sold at 10 times their normal prices on the black market.